

Mar. 17, 2019

Thoughts from the pastor,

Happy St. Patrick's Day and on Tuesday Happy St. Joseph's Day. Still no word on my replacement, just rumors. I don't trust those because I used to work with some of the priests that started those years back. They would sit at the dinner table and come up with some outlandish idea and start it as a rumor to see how far it got. Then they would laugh like crazy when it got back to them.

Arch Omaha Unite sign up for children is full. There are still a few openings for teens. The openings for adults is at 75%.

The Parish Mission went very well. My thanks to Deacon Duane Karmazin for working on the advertising, handouts, and the posters. Thanks to Deacon John Dagerman for video recording the three talks. I will let you know when there are copies of it on DVD available at the parish office. I hear the speaker had fun doing the talks, but what does he know. If you have an interest, ask around and you will get feedback on whether it is worth getting a copy. There were about 150 people who attended.

It is the season for confessions. As I mentioned at the Parish Mission, this is an opportunity to get fixed up and cleaned up for attending the Royal Banquet that Christ holds for us each week. This Monday there is a Penance Service at St. Frances Borgia in Blair at 7pm. Our parish Penance Service is not until Holy Week, 4/15. You can get your sins forgiven after you mail in your taxes. I thought I'd throw that in so that you can remember it easier. There is also plenty of times before Masses here at SEAS. If you are one of those who tend to go once or twice a year, you might try an extra time to see what happens if you push yourself.

One of the many things that I wasn't able to cover in the mission or in the book is just how drastic a difference there is between being a royal family member in heaven and a servant of the Lord here on earth. Jesus has shown us that very clearly in his choice of crowns. In heaven his crown will be more spectacular than Mary's crown of twelve stars. On earth it was a crown of thorns. Yes, that was his choice even though the soldiers thought they were mocking him with it. He has offered that same choice to several Saints. A servant does not wear a crown of gold. Until we are in heaven we are like St. Paul – a slave of Jesus Christ, St. Peter – a servant of the Lord, or Mary – a handmaid of the Lord. It goes back to what some of us learned in the Baltimore Catechism. "God made me to know, love, and serve Him in this world; so we can be with Him forever in the next."

If we only think of Lent as fasting and abstinence we might miss the other possibility of doing service. If you haven't done a service project lately you might watch for an opportunity. There are many chances to volunteer at fish fry events, or school activities. Maybe you already scooped your neighbor's driveway or sidewalk. If you are struggling to think of something, google the corporal works of mercy. That might get your imagination going.

Next weekend, Tony LaMar will be here from the Archdiocesan Stewardship and Development Office with some helpful advice. He will be at all the Masses.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank