

Feb. 1-2, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

This week I would like to follow up on some of the goals that I mentioned last week. I am looking for a parish contact and coordinator for the Totus Tuus program. We have already been given a time slot of July 5-11. The teachers, which usually includes seminarians and some FOCUS missionaries, (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) are all set. Most of what will happen will fall into place very easily because of our great facility. About the only adjustment that might have to happen is that the morning prayer group may have to meet in the rectory that week. Just a reminder, we will still have the regular Vacation Bible School that is held at St. James. This will be an added bonus. The coordinator will need to work with registrations and other fun things.

I mentioned the Bible Study at some of the Masses this past weekend. As I mentioned it will start this Lent, which will be the kick off for reading the Bible in one year. This entails reading three chapters per day, a chapter from the Old Testament, and Psalm or a chapter from the Wisdom Literature, and a New Testament reading. What I will be doing is having a half-hour debriefing on the 21 chapters that people have read the previous week. I will do that from 10:15-10:45am between the 9:00 & 11:00am Masses on Sundays in the Church. It will continue for a whole year, but some of you may only be able to do the Lenten start-up. I am hoping by just doing that much everyone will be excited enough to set their personal goal of finishing the whole Bible. The good news is that most of you don't have to make an extra trip to church. Those at the 9:00am Mass will just stay an extra 45 minutes and those who go to the 11:00am Mass will simply come 45 minutes early.

We will be using the Coming Home Network reading guide. This has been developed by Marcus Grodi who is on the Journey Home TV show on EWTN. It is also good for reading the Catholic Catechism of the Church but we will save that part for another time. I am also hoping that this program will help with another one of the goals which is for people in the parish to get to know each other better. The mingling of 9:00am and 11:00am Mass crowds coming together could help people see parishioners that they haven't seen in years. I am not sure what to do with those of you who attend the other Masses. You can certainly read the Bible on your own but I won't be able to do a class for each of the other Masses. I will be putting my notes on the web-site every week so that should be helpful for you to read to help understand any of the confusing parts.

If you are starting to prepare and are looking at purchasing a Bible, I suggest the New American Bible because it has the wording that you are used to hearing at Mass. My favorite is the St. Joseph Edition, but any Catholic Bible will do. If you have a Protestant Bible that only has the 66 books of the Bible there will come a point when you notice that you are missing some of the readings. Martin Luther took a few books out of the Bible about 500 hundred years ago. But I suggest that you have a Bible that you are not afraid of writing in. You can make notes in the columns that will be helpful for you later.

On another topic, next weekend, Feb. 8-9, Fr. John and I will be offering the Sacrament of the Sick at all the Masses. As usual this is for anyone seriously ill or over the age of 65 or anyone who will be having serious surgery in the near future. This will happen after the Gospel.

I do want you to know that my week off went just like I hoped. I had time to eat healthy and lose five pounds. It also helped that I walked about 30 miles and jogged about 12 miles, went snorkeling and kayaking. I tried to say a rosary for every mile. So I said about 40 rosaries. I had Mass every day, twice in place of the ship's chaplain who had a bad cold during those days. I also finished three books which I will tell you about next week.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank