

Apr. 19-20, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

Happy Easter! I hope the Easter Bunny laid a good one on you. Actually I hope the blessing of knowing that Jesus is inviting us into His Resurrection is a blessing for you and renews your hope. Easter is an amazing feast but this year it is just the beginning of an extended season of God's blessings. Here are just a few of the blessings coming up.

Next weekend is Commitment Sunday for our part in the Archbishop's Campaign, "Ignite the Faith." For some of you that may not sound that exciting, but let me share some of my excitement. First of all it will be like the end of a school year in that it will be nice to have it over. But like each school year it is the sense of accomplishment that should be the focus. To know that you have done something that will have a lasting effect on your life is worth celebrating. To have done our part in doing something that will have a lasting role in the future of this Archdiocese is also something to celebrate. Hopefully you have been able to be a part of what we are celebrating or will be soon.

The following weekend we have 1st Communion. Most weeks I and most of the EMHCs have the opportunity to see a child come up with their hand out because they want one of those "chips." On this weekend I get to see how some of those children have matured enough in their faith to be able to hold out their hands in the form of a very small throne so I can place the King of Kings on it. Then they will be able to take Him into their bodies to start the transformation that we hope will continue for the rest of their lives as they become what they eat. Everything else that we eat becomes a part of us, but when we eat the Body, Blood, Soul & Divinity of Jesus we become Him, who is the only begotten Son of God. It brings us to a whole different level of belonging to God's royal family that is above the adoption that happened to us at baptism.

Just a day or so before 1st Communion, May 2, the Archbishop will be here to Confirm our 8th graders and a couple of adults in our parish. This is also a big step in being a part of the royal family of God. A very special connection happens between a bishop, who represents apostles and the long line of bishops that have followed them, and the person receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, who wants to upgrade his role in the royal family. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit they receive an infusion of gifts that help them go from being a self-centered child to a participating adult who wants to live out their royal status in this family in a way that will truly make a difference in this world and the next. They will be changing from someone who is being evangelized to a person who can reach out and evangelize others and have that work blessed by the Holy Spirit in a way that makes it more fruitful in the life of the Church.

There are a few other things happening during that time. Divine Mercy Sunday comes the weekend right after Easter. May crowning and our Hunger Never Takes a Vacation Collection for Catholic Charities will be the next weekend. Mother's Day is also a World Day of Prayer for Vocations will be the following weekend. And last but not least, within weeks after that, we will be celebrating a First Mass for Deacon Ben Boyd on June 8th, because he will be ordained a priest by the Archbishop on June 7th. With all of this happening we should be feeling the amazing power of the Family of God growing and working in this world. The fact that it also is doing so much to prepare us for joining the heavenly family in the next is not just a bonus but is the true reason for it all. So again, I wish you a Happy Easter.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank