

June 21-22, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

We live in a cultural environment that is geared for our convenience. We expect things to come fast and easy. Having to wait for anything can send us off the deep end of our emotions. Just think of some of the delays you have had to deal with; waiting in line for checkout at the grocery store or to renew your driver's license, fast food that isn't fast, waiters that you have to wait for, etc. Businesses are constantly trying to upgrade their service to their customers so that they don't go somewhere that is more convenient. You can now get your license online. Checkout for groceries is faster and faster. You can have your restaurant meal done for takeout after you order it online at your convenience.

The Church is very slow in that area. Often times we are inconvenient. You can't just drop in according to your schedule and have Mass start immediately. You have to rearrange your schedule to fit Mass in. Except for rare parishes they just don't seem to understand how busy everyone is and the Mass takes a whole hour. You can't do confessions online. You have to make a thousand arrangements to get married. There are classes just to have a baby baptized. There are all sorts of things you are supposed to know and understand just to be confirmed or worse, to join the Church. Just to have a funeral you need to jump through all sorts of hoops and then you still have to meet certain guidelines. It is a hassle. It is no wonder that so many people are leaving the Church. It just doesn't understand us anymore.

But maybe we have to rethink that a little bit. The Church is not supposed to be focused on us. It is about God. And oddly enough God expects us to think of Him as the center of the universe and everything else He made. He wants us to set aside all these things that fill our lives and pay attention to Him. That is very difficult for anyone who has spent every moment of their lives expected to be catered to. Before baptism is to be administered we should know what we are getting our lives tied into, a God who actually wants us to prepare for a whole different kind of life with Him in heaven. When His Son gives of Himself for us as food for communion, He wants us to take the time to know Him and His Son so we can appreciate the gift and what it is meant to accomplish. For it can't change us into a Saint made for heaven unless we are open to the process for God will not force Himself on us. God will not hear the sincerity of our attempt at reconciliation unless we have put some time energy into it. He actually wants us to have love that lasts so He wants us to learn about it before we commit to another person in marriage. He wants us to know the secrets of eternal life when we face death so He wants us to pause at that moment and work through certain ideas, like how important our body has been to Him and how He will raise it up on the last day. He wants us to know that the bonds of love that we made in this life are not lost as we go to the next if we are bound to Him, the God of love. He wants us to truly be an active member of His family so becoming a member of it or confirming our membership is a big deal to Him and He wants us to understand how big a deal it can be for us.

One of the amazing things that He wants to teach us is that His family is large and includes people of many generations, nations, cultures and races. He wants us to gather together every week to get to know them before we lose our chance to get to heaven because we were afraid it would inconvenience us. The Church will never be geared to be fast and easy because it is not all about us it is about God who made all the time in the world.

God bless you all,  
Fr. Frank