

June 28-29, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

After Masses this weekend I will be heading out for a few days of Vacation. I will be back on July 4th. This will be a driving trip. Fr. Mike Malloy, pastor at Battle Creek and Schoolcraft, NE, and I will be driving around far western Nebraska. We have to check out the Nebraska National Forest. Gosh I hope you all realized that we have one. Fr. Mike and I have canoed most of the rivers throughout Nebraska and seen many of the sites but we were both ready for a nice relaxing vacation with no airports, no deadlines, and no marathon road trips. They have been getting some rains so everything should be looking very nice.

The following week we will have Totus Tuus running at the parish. This program has been going on in the Archdiocese for several years. It is more intense than a regular Vacation Bible School like we had this past week. The reason that I felt that it was important is that our children will be facing far harder challenges to their faith. The more they know the more they will be able to hold on to their chance at salvation. I hope your children or grandchildren are signed up. I know that there are still openings. The evening sessions are for the upper grades. Many in this age group need encouragement to take time for things like this. The good news is that if you get them to come the first night you probably won't have to worry about the challenge of encouraging them the rest of the week. They will enjoy it.

This past month Fr. John has been very busy taking classes at Creighton to continue to build on his knowledge of spirituality so that he will be ready for his task when he heads back to Togo next summer. I have also made sure that he gets the full experience of what we have to offer in this country by having him attend the Steubenville Conference at SW Missouri State campus in two weeks. I really believe that this is one of the most powerful experiences that our young people can be a part of. I attended about four years ago. As a priest I was able to attend the conferences but spent the rest of the time hearing confessions. Just like anyone else who has a close encounter with Jesus these young people wanted to have their souls cleansed so that they would be even more open to the graces that the Lord has to offer. It was a beautiful and powerful experience for me and I am sure it will be the same for Fr. John.

Because of his classes he has had all the 7:00am weekday Masses this June. It made it very easy to keep track of the schedule. He did the mornings and I did the evenings. This month will be back to jumping around. I realize that this can make it a little confusing for people coming for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the week. Some would like to have a particular confessor. The Church encourages that. For this reason I will be adding the schedule sheet of who will be saying the Masses for July. Let me know if it is helpful for you to know who is going to be having the Masses and be there for confessions. If it is helpful I will keep inserting that schedule.

On another bit of news I just wanted to remind you that the HOPE sales are a very important part of the parishes fundraising plan. The blue hymnals were paid for by HOPE. Some of the microphones for the church are paid for by them. They help many families pay for their tuition. The funds will be helping to pay for updating the computer system for the parish. The easiest of the cards to use are the ones for groceries. Everyone buys groceries. The parish can get about 5% from those purchases. I hope you will use the program. We are also looking for more volunteers to help with selling these cards after Masses.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank