

July 12-13, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

Being gone last week I did not have a chance to have a letter ready for the bulletin. I was checking out Chimney Rock about the time I would have been writing it. The places I went I encourage all Nebraskans to check out. We did not stop at Ashfalls Fossil Bed but that is one of my favorite sites and it isn't that far from Omaha, about 20 miles east of O'Neill. We went to Burwell and saw the Calamus Reservoir. First we went to Toadstool Geological Park. Then we went to a place I had not known about, "Hudson-Meng Bison Kill" which is about seven miles from Toadstool. It has a great mystery to be solved as to why there are about 600 bison ancestors' skeletons without the skulls that are about 11,000 years old. We went touring some of the beautiful landscapes of western Nebraska Sandhills. They are especially beautiful right now because there has been so much rain. The wildflowers or prairie grasses and plants are really nice this year. We saw Fort Robinson and their bone collection. We went to Agate Fossil Bed which is a world renowned fossil find. We saw old bones, older bones and some of the real old bones. It made my old bones feel good. These are very interesting sights that have dinosaurs, mastodons, and ancient buffaloes. It makes for interesting outings for everyone, even families with children.

Over the past couple of weekends many of you noticed the new handrails that have been installed near the candles that are on the sides of the main altar. It was shortly after I came to SEAS that the first request for these came to me. But they are finally installed and blend in very nicely. They should be very helpful for lectors, EMHCs and priests who struggle with those steps. Most of us are used to six inch steps. These are eight inch steps and they are harder to go up and more dangerous going down. They were donated in memory of Margaret Rose Carlin. Her family also donated a wheelchair that will be kept in the coat closet that is across from the parish hall which makes it accessible from the church or the social hall.

One of the blessings of doing a driving tour for a vacation is that it gives me a lot of time to think. Fr. Mike and I don't tend to chat for hours and hours. We often go into our empty boxes and even when we come out and visit other boxes the other might have no idea what is being thought about. I thought about bones. I saw ones that were probably over fifty millions years old. I saw some that were from totally different and more modern eras so they were only about 20 million years old. Then there were the ones that were only 11,000 years old. It must have been fun for God to watch all of this happen and even know that the most fun would be when we would find them and scurry around trying to figure out what these animal were and when did they live. The scientists and experts who have tried to figure them out are basically fascinated with creation.

For me the question isn't so much when but why. I love trying to get into the mind of God. I don't think that He has boxes or a bird nest, but His mind is fascinating. He made this world for us and He spent about 14 billion years getting it ready for us. He put things in it that will keep the human race guessing for thousands of years to come. We have just scratched the surface and already many of the scientists think that they are so smart. But how smart is God? How does He think? I just know that His thoughts are above mine more than the heavens are above the earth.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank