

July 19-20, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

We finished Totus Tuus a week ago. They really learned a lot, but then the younger grades had twice as much time to learn as the Vacation Bible School offers. The other difference is that there was an opportunity for junior and senior high students to come and learn. We had about seventy 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders during the day, and around forty 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. One of the things that I love about Totus Tuus is that college students are leading the group. Not even priest's get as much respect and awe as they do. The leaders had been through a week of training and then had three warm-up weeks of presenting out in the rural areas before they came to SEAS. They were happy for that experience because ours was the biggest group they had dealt with this year. The other part that I love about this is that there is Mass with the lower grades everyday. I follow up on the energy of the other leaders and hopefully gave them even more info that will be helpful in their faith. It was fun.

Last weekend our seminarian for the summer, Conor Bopp, and Fr. John went with a busload of young people to the Steubenville conference in Springfield, Missouri. There were 27 participants from SEAS. I was able to see a few of them as they were unloading from the bus-ride back to SEAS. I hadn't realized it but Fr. John had been on several of these in years past as he helped with participants from his own diocese. He has also been at a few World Youth Days. So he is an old hand at this. These activities are very important for our young people as they build up their faith so it can sustain them through the trials that they will face in life.

Our parish Overflow coordinator the past few years has been Cassie Sheik. She has obviously been doing a great job. But at this point she will be turning over the leadership to a new coordinator, Hannah Keisling. Hannah has been working at Boys Town with her husband. She will actually be working as coordinator for SEAS and St. James. I will be sure and have here put her bio in one of the upcoming bulletins.

In another bit of news SEAS has received a watering cart from the Stessman family. If August ends up with less rain than the last few months it will be very helpful for watering the flowers in the islands and around the facility. It holds about twenty gallons and is very easy to handle. It is easier than running a hose over 50 yards. It will be kept in the coat closet during the watering months, so it is available when the office entrance is open.

I need to correct one bit of information I put in one of my previous letters. The wheelchair that was donated to the parish was from the Senior Ladies Exercise Group. But the railings for the steps were from Margaret Rose Carlin's family.

Many of you have been getting your picture taken for the directory. Thank you. We have almost 300 families signed up to have their picture taken. This is less than 25% of the parish. Now you know why I get frustrated.

Just so you know I also have a new e-mail address and not just me but the parish has a new domain, whatever that means. My e-mail address is: frankbaumert@stelizabethann.org

God bless you all,  
Fr. Frank