

Aug. 9-10, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

The parish picnic is coming up in two weeks. This really is a time for those of you who feel like you are barely a part of the parish to do something that can change that. You can sign up for helping out in one way or another in the back of church. You will only be volunteering for one day so it is not a big commitment. You will get to know a few more people in the parish and will have taken a step beyond the minimum. The minimum is keeping holy the Lord's Day by going to Mass. I am fairly confident that the meaning of Confirmation was that as adult Catholics you promised to live out your faith by taking on adult responsibilities. In this way you show that you are not just a beggar before the Lord. That is what children tend to be with their parents. Adults check to see if they can be of assistance.

For many individuals and families getting involved in a parish can be nerve-racking. Many don't have the time to take on tasks that would be weekly because of their schedule. Others are just shy. This is why the parish picnic is a good way to start. It is very low key and is over quickly. But if you haven't been to the picnic in the past even this would be hard. You have no idea what you are signing up for. I remember that feeling from every time the Archbishop reassigns me. Luckily I am used to it. But for those of you in that situation it is time to attend and get past the excuses. Yes it may be a little too hot or too windy. Maybe your schedule is tight. Maybe you haven't been outside all summer because the weather predicted death for anyone who went outside in the heat. Check the news and you will find that no one died from the heat this summer in Nebraska. If there is a tornado I take all this back and you can seek shelter. But otherwise come and join in on the fun. Then next year you can help make it happen.

As you heard from me last week, Fr. John's bishop was here this past weekend. Bishop Isaac had a Mass in French for many of the people from Togo who now live in Omaha. There are about 6,000 but I think only 600 came. It has been hard for them. Coming to Mass in Omaha has been difficult. Apart from that Mass there are no Masses in French. If you would have seen the Mass you would have noticed that the atmosphere was different also. They were dressed up in their native outfits so it was far more colorful. The music was far more charismatic and even louder. For these reasons many of the Togolese people are skipping Mass now that they are in America. Others are going to denominations that are more charismatic in their liturgies. One of Bishop Isaac's concerns is that they are gaining the world and losing their souls. I wonder how many people in the city and in our parish are using excuses that are similar for not going to Mass.

Speaking of charismatic on Friday, 8/1, Fr. Michael Voithofer, the new Associate Pastor at St. James, was here to have an ABLAZE worship service. This was a beautiful time of prayer and song to praise God. For the last couple years it has been at St. Roberts. Since Fr. Michael has been reassigned it is now going to be in several parishes, one of which is SEAS. The next one at our parish will be Sunday, Sept. 7th at 7pm. There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Last week I gave the talk that is a part of it. Those will be given by different people. Stay tuned, I will give you more information about this soon.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank