

Oct. 25-26, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

This week I have a proposal for you. It is not a marriage proposal but an idea that I have been looking into and want to know if I should proceed in looking further at how it would work. The idea is to take many of the stained-glass windows from two churches in South Omaha that are closed down and install them at SEAS. The two churches are St. Rose of Lima and St. Patrick. Both churches are now officially closed and the buildings are for sale. All the sacred art and artifacts are being removed before the sales.

SEAS Parish has a beautiful church. I get compliments on it all the time. I am not thinking in terms of any major renovation of the church part of the facility. What I have in mind is to put some of the big windows from St. Patrick Church into the window space we have in the narthex and in the entry that goes to the office and social hall. There are six to eight of them that are available at this time. There are also four to six more from that church and over a dozen smaller ones in St. Rose of Lima Church that are images of Saints, angels and OT heroes. Those would fit into some of the many different clear glass windows we have all around the facility. I have an idea of two special ones that would go into the windows by the two reconciliation rooms in SEAS Church.

I have put together a power-point presentation that I will be showing in the social hall after the Masses this weekend. If you can't stay you can see it on the parish web-site: www.stelizabethann.org. I also have a few pictures in the narthex that can give you an idea of how it would work.

The cost of putting one of the big windows from St. Patrick Church would be \$15,000. This is why I have been doing homework on this project. I wanted to get an idea of some of the costs involved and I also wanted to make sure that I didn't encroach on the Archbishop's Capital Campaign, *Ignite the Faith*, or his annual appeal. This price includes \$6,000 to pay St. Pat's for the window. It would also cover the cost of putting a plain replacement window in their church. Then it would cover the cost of refitting the stained-glass into the space we have for it and mounting it with a clear protective glass on the inside so it would be safe from kids and kids safe from it. For all these windows would be right at eye level and not high like they usually are in churches. Our facility is designed with very wide window ledges and frames so they could be installed very easily. I do not have a cost for the smaller windows but can get that if people are interested.

The timing on this is important to understand. As things are going our parish debt is going to be paid off at the end of 2015, but I don't want to do this unless we have a real agreement on whether it is a good idea. Actually my hope is that it won't put the parish in another debt. I am hoping that there are some families that might want to do one as a memorial. I am actually trying to figure out how I might be able to have one of the smaller ones as a memorial for my parents. I haven't approached my family on that yet but I am hoping.

Another aspect of the timing is that very little can happen for the next ten months or more. It would take that long to get things figured out and see if there is a real interest. I believe that it would add a great deal to the feel of the sacredness of our facility. Hopefully it would also be great visual catechesis for every generation in our parish, especially our children. Let me know what you think.

One last note. There was a correction on the Baskets & Bundles figure that was in last week's bulletin. I don't have it exact at this moment but it was over \$10,000.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank