

Nov. 29-30, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

I hope everyone was able to enjoy Thanksgiving. For some people holidays are tough. That is part of why Christ set up the Church. It is the extended family for many of us. When we come to Mass we know that we are not alone for we have the family of God. It is even greater when the family of God works to make holidays more of a joy for others. I know of so many of you doing just that for many people. I pray that God will reward you for your efforts. It is something that we all need to be a part of whenever we can.

I wanted to give you what little update on the stain-glass windows that I can. The company working with them has not given me estimates on putting in any but the biggest ones at this time but they are working on that so I can share it with you. My hope is that once that information comes I can set up a road trip to see the windows. It will be easy for they are just in South Omaha. It is just that the churches are closed and locked most of the time. After that I would like to have a town hall meeting to discuss pros and cons for different ideas that have come up. This is the time to bring up concerns that you have. I have had two deacons volunteer to be ears for concerns for me. You can contact Deacon Marty Crowley, 402-498-3562, or Deacon John Dagerman, 402-493-4563. They can even get concerns to me anonymously or if you like they can be the ones to bring up the concerns at the town hall meeting when we have that. It is very important to me that we hear from people. If we do this, we want to do it in a way that pleases the most people we can.

A few weeks ago I was able to attend the Children's Scholarship or CHANCE Luncheon. The Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha believes that all families, regardless of income, should be able to choose the best educational setting for their children. CSF provides partial tuition scholarships so children from low-income families can access the private K-8 education that best meets their needs. Since 1999, more than 27,000 scholarships valued at \$25 million have been awarded to children in Omaha and northeast Nebraska.

The main speaker at the luncheon was Walter Paul, a freshman at Carleton College. He is the National Speech and Debate Association's National Student of the Year. He is from Uganda and attended All Saints School and then Creighton Prep. He gave an amazing presentation called "Social Unconsciousness in Generation Y Bother." The speech is available on you-tube. You can go to you-tube and look for Walter Paul's speech on this topic. I'm confident you can find it for even I did it. In it he jokes about his own generation but we have all heard routines about our own generation and how silly we can get. We have to remember that Jesus told us not to conform to this world. We need to be different. We need to be building His Kingdom here on earth so He will invite us to join Him in His in heaven.

As we celebrate the season of Advent we are encouraged to start another year of improvement of our spiritual path. May your path to Jesus become clearer this year.

God bless you all,  
Fr. Frank