

Feb.21-22, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

Last Sunday many of us had the chance to see the windows at St. Patrick's and St. Rose of Lima Churches. Fr. John had not had a chance to be there before so it was good to see his reaction to St. Patrick's Church. Just seeing the outside his comment was that if that church were in his country of Togo, it would be the cathedral. Then when he saw the inside he was even more amazed. Besides the beautiful windows they also have a wonderful statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, Queen of Heaven. He commented that if any church in his country had statues like that there would be people on their knees constantly praying and others coming from all over on pilgrimage to see them. Now besides trying to help him start the Theological library of French books, and shipping his car over there, I am wondering if there is a way to ship those statues. Maybe we can put Jesus and Mary in the car when we ship it.

This means that it is time to set up the committee to start looking at this issue seriously. There have been several people who have shown interest already. So I am hoping to get some of the interested people together on Thursday, March 12th at 7pm. Right after that we will need to set up a town hall meeting to discuss the window project and the situation with Fr. John's replacement, Fr. Cleary. I am looking at March 22nd after the 11am Mass for that gathering. If we can't meet at that point it would be another month or more before there is an open Sunday. Luckily it is not a rush.

Next Saturday, Feb. 28, I will be showing the movie, The Passion of the Christ, after the 8:30am Mass. The movie is so powerful just by itself but there are some subtleties that I will be pointing out and explaining to help you get the full benefit of what it contains. The movie is about two hours long but it will be a little longer with me stopping it occasionally so expect to finish at noon that morning.

This year the Archdiocese is again having the "Light is On" opportunity for confessions. Fr. John and I will be available for confessions on Thursday evenings starting 2/26 and ending 3/26. The time slot is from 5pm to 7pm. Of course we already have confessions at SEAS from 5-5:25 each of those day followed by Mass but these Thursdays we will both be available. Over the last couple years this has been a great time for people who have been away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation for a while to take some time to get back on the full path of grace that God is offering. So the confessional light will be on. I hope and pray that you will take advantage of it.

This past year I have been focusing as much as possible on kingdom language in many of my homilies, using words like: king, queen, prince and princess. The good news is that I will be switching from that being the primary focus. The new news is that my new focus will be the term "Lord." In our culture it is hard to wrap our heads around the kingdom image because it is so foreign to our democratic way of thinking. But if you think that is hard, wait until you try to deal with Lord and what that means. But without the kingdom background it would have been even harder for many people to handle. If you are wondering how hard it is for us to grasp it just remember all the times you have heard a child say something like: "You're not the boss of me!" Being our own boss is ingrained in our culture, but to understand the Scripture and God himself, we have to get past that notion. As we were just reminded this past week, we are dust and to dust we will return.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank