

April 4-5, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

Happy Easter! I hope and pray that your Lenten penances were a bonus in your spiritual growth these last months. The priests who were here for the Penance Service felt wonderful after coming to hear confessions last Monday. Not only were there hundreds of people but they were so pleased with the healthy awareness of everyone in terms of our sinfulness and of God's desire to show us His mercy. You may not realize it but there are so many in the Church who find themselves on one extreme of this balance or the other. Some feel that God cannot possibly love them with their history of sin. Others presume that God's love is so great that we have no need of coming to Him to seek His forgiveness. That it is automatic. That is part of why I use the image of princess and knight in shining armor before the Lord, their King. Each needs the Kings help. The princess is not at her best when she and her dress do not shine forth the radiance of the kingdom. The knight whose armor is covered with the mud of his own sin is also in trouble for it looks like he is fighting for the wrong kingdom. Both need to recognize their sin and realize that when we come to God He has great pleasure in restoring us to the dignity we were meant to have with Him. Those powerful words, "I absolve you," do just that.

Most of you should have received the *SEA Breeze*. You may even get a follow-up bulletin. This includes information on the conclusion of the Bible Study and also a long summary of the results of the town hall meeting and some of the Parish Council discussions. It may seem long but it hopefully answers all the questions that have come up. Next weekend the Parish Council will do a follow-up at the Masses. They want to make sure that they have a correct reading on the desires of the parish. At each Mass, April 11-12, they will simply ask for people to stand and be counted. If you are against the window project starting you would stand when asked. If you are for moving forward with the first parts of that project you will have your turn to stand. This is why it is important to go over these information summaries. There will also be access to the info on the parish web-site.

The collections for the Spiritual book library that Fr. John is trying to set up in Togo was very successful. Over \$19,000 has been collected from the parish. This is just another sign of how this parish does so much to help those in need. It is hard for me to imagine having gone through my years in the seminary without the right books to add to my guidance. My professors were good but having text books and resource books added so much to what they could offer in my very short period of time with each of them. I have been blessed in that I have continued access to this kind of material. This library will also provide chances for priests and laity to add to their spiritual growth for the next couple decades.

Once again Happy Easter. Just a reminder, next Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. Notice the information in this bulletin on how you can participate in this added bonus. One of the biggest helps it provides for many people is the chance to get to confession if Easter came and went too fast for them.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank