

May 9-10, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

May God grant all the mothers in our parish abundance graces and blessings. This is one time when we are very inclusive. We celebrate birth mothers, stepmothers, expectant mothers, grieving mothers, etc. We recognize that being a mother is a sacrifice. It is constantly trying to do something for someone else. In a culture of growing narcissism this sacrificial love is definitely something to celebrate. It is the love that Jesus modeled for the Church.

To focus on the goodness of Motherhood is not something we can take lightly at this point in our world. I have been thinking a lot recently about the book The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis. The idea of the book is a conversation between two devils, one a rookie and the other a veteran at stealing souls. The veteran is giving advice to the new recruit on how to convert a soul from being in God's family. The things mentioned in the book are timeless but what I have been thinking about are the new things that the devil seems to have added to his list.

Here are just a few that have come to mind. The first one is to give the person a way of building a false sense of self-esteem. Make sure every person feels good about their accomplishments, even if they have not put in an ounce of effort. This will build up their pride and put them on the road to selfishness. The second one is to use that selfishness to get the person to focus on pleasure for themselves in terms of instant gratification. Give them a steady dose of information that is geared to make them feel good now but will get them hooked or addicted to the pleasure so that they will feel like they can't live without it. The most power gift that we have from God is love so it is best to have it within that realm so it seems legitimate. But instead of pure love, which is that hard sacrificial love of the cross, focus on lust which fits perfectly into this scenario.

It is also important to make sure that the legitimate structure for sacrificial love, the family unit, is ruined. Ruin the concept of motherhood with a constant message of "it's my body and I can do what I want with it." Ruin the concept of fatherhood by watering down the sacrificial nature of being ready to live and die and fight for your family by putting these into the same category of inappropriate violence. In other words make the father feel that his gift of strength is a curse to the family rather than its protection. Tie the false self-esteem into this by making strength of any kind worthless by taking winning and losing out of activities so boys and men don't feel it is right to develop their strength.

Use the constant message of the need for instant gratification through love (lust) as a way of making the Church look silly and out of date because it keeps upholding those old standards of ancient times. That way no one feels any guilt as they explore all the new possibilities for instant gratification that don't fit into that outdated model of family. These are just some of the scary thoughts I had as I was thinking about how lucky I was to have my mother and father helping me find my way in this difficult world.

The Sunday morning Mass times will switch to 8am and 11am as of June 6-7. One of the reasons for the big block of time between these two Mass times is so that there can be different kinds of classes offered at a time when we should be focusing on God. The first two Sundays, 6/7 & 6/14, I will be having Altar Serving training in Church between the Masses. This is for new recruits. The other time I will offer for training will be Saturday, 5/30, at 3pm. There will be more info on this in later bulletins.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank