

May 16-17, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

This time of year is crazy with events for many of us. There are graduations of all levels, Mother's Day, First Communions, Confirmations, and even the start of wedding season to mention a few. In the midst of this it is important to remember some of the biggest. We are just finishing the Easter Season. This week we celebrated The Ascension of our Lord. Next weekend we celebrate Pentecost. These are the first three of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. They are God's answer to our problem with death. They are the way, the truth and the life that Jesus said He was. Gaining eternal life means we need to follow the way that Jesus is showing in these and the other mysteries of the Rosary.

The reason that I bring this up is that we all deal with a lot of information. Our heads are filled with important information and trivial things. We are bombarded by people trying, in one way or another, to get our attention. One of the consequences of that for my brain is that I now have an attention span of about eight seconds. Don't get me wrong. I can think about things for longer than that but if something new comes into my brain for any particular reason, I know that I have eight seconds to do something about it or it is forgotten. Like many people I have a real problem with entering a room and not remembering what I went there to do. That was because it took more than eight seconds to get there. The only room that I don't have as much problem with is the restroom. When I enter there it is usually for one of two reasons and we call them number one and number two. For most everything else I have problems.

I have come to believe that the devil is using that short attention span to pull us away from Jesus and His Church. When we think about the big issues in our faith like the importance of the Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost, the devil tries to plant doubts in our mind. For the Resurrection it might be the same doubt that the Apostle Thomas had. It might be a doubt that came up from a television show or a movie. That is normal. The problem is that the devil doesn't seem to stop at that point. He distracts us because the way through those doubts is to think them out.

We could remind ourselves that stories of the Resurrection have been verified by the Gospels who were written by the apostles, most of whom died martyrs deaths because they were so confident in them. We also might think through the many other miracles that are related in the Old Testament and New Testament that all seem to relate to each other that it can be just coincidental. Like the manna from heaven, the multiplication of loaves and the Last Supper all tying together in a way that makes so much sense.

The problem is that the devil doesn't give us that much time to think about the avenues out of our doubt. He gets us thinking about something totally different so our last thought on the issue was a doubt. When this happens over and over again we feel like our doubt in the truth even though we have not verified it in any way. The devil is good at this. An antidote is to take time in prayer without distractions, with the rosary, time in front of the Blessed Sacrament, Scripture reading, etc. Those give us time to think through our doubts. So in case you might have forgotten since the beginning of this letter, it might be important to reflect on the Ascension and Pentecost also. All three are important to our faith, but only if we take the time to think them out.

The Sunday morning Mass times will switch to 8am and 11am as of June 6-7. By the way, congratulations to all the graduates from our parish.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank