

Feb.7-8, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

A week ago, 1/30, we had one of the closing activities of Catholic Schools Week at SEAS, the Science Family Activity and Ice Cream Social/Bake Sale. I'm glad they didn't make T-shirts, but the activity was wonderful. This was a perfect example of what fun everyone can have if everyone takes responsibility for their children. There was no running or throwing in the halls. No one played tag in the Parish Hall. Each parent made sure their children knew the rules and enforced them. The best thing was that I had parents actually starting to have confidence in bringing their children to these activities again.

Most parents do not want their children to behave badly and have a hard enough time controlling their own children's incredible energy and don't need the bad influence of other bad behavior to tempt their children. If everyone does their part that is not a problem for basically children are good and will behave within the limits we set for them. If they know they can get away with acting the same way in a church facility as they do outside, they will act like it is a playground. If it is very clear that it is not appropriate to play physical games indoors, they will follow those rules for as long as their attention span holds out. For most children on sugar that is not very long so it is important that it is reinforced regularly.

The fact that they were having ice-cream, cake, cookies, etc. was even more amazing to me because it showed that they can behave even under that kind of energy boost. So congratulations to everyone involved in this activity. I hope we can do this kind of activity this well many more times so those parents and senior citizens that have been worried about this getting worse and worse will be able to come back to these helpful activities. For I also believe the children learned a bunch of science while they had their cake and ice-cream, so it was fun and helpful.

This past weekend was exciting because of the snow on Sunday. You should have noticed that Catholic Churches are about the only ones that don't cancel Sunday Masses. We certainly cancel activities that we put on for each other but we don't cancel the "royal banquet" that God puts on for us. As priests we figure that is up to Him to cancel, not us. That is one of the interesting things about God's Kingdom verses our system of democracy. In this country if the majority say we should cancel something or make other decisions, they then set the policy. They know that the next group might vote out that policy or law. With God we don't get to do that. That is why we call Him Lord or King. We are not on equal footing. He gets to be the boss.

Our decision comes as we try to decide whether we will follow His rule. Many people believe that all laws are just man-made so they figure church laws can be changed by a majority vote or a big enough demonstration of desire. That is what we as pro-lifers try to do in this country but it is a matter of trying to change laws in our democracy. We can't do the same with God's laws.

Many laws of the church are actually man-made. It is very important for anyone who wants to be a part of God's Kingdom to know which ones are and which aren't. But whether they are or not they need to follow the direction of the kingdom. The scriptures and the Church's interpretation of them have to be our guide to know those things, because that is how we know God.

God bless you all,  
Fr. Frank