

Aug. 29-30, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

The picnic last Sunday was a lot of fun. It was a perfect day for it. The weather made everyone happy except me. I was wearing a sweater because of the wind-chill. Of course the final figures are not in but for those of you who worry about the budget, the income from the event will be down from last year. The lottery tickets did not sell as well so it will be down about \$5,000 if I have heard correctly. The Baskets and Bundles did very well and may have made more than last year by about a \$1,000. The rest, with the food etc., I do not know yet. What I do know is that a whole lot of people worked very hard. Deacon John Dagerman and his crew really put their heart and soul into it. Rita Dolan did a great job organizing the lottery and Crystal Anderson and her energetic workers were awesome. Thanks to all of you. There will be a further report in weeks to come.

I wanted to give you another update on the stain-glass window project. We had another Parish Council meeting this last week and after reviewing the situation we are moving forward. There are some deadlines that I found out about recently. St. Patrick's Church is very near to the point of being sold. The plan is that it will be demolished because it cannot be converted into anything non-sacred. At the time of the sale everything that is in the building will go with the building. The sale will probably happen in September sometime. So I am having Lambrecht Glass Studios take the remaining windows out of the church and store them in his storage/workshop area. Now that he has the go ahead he will be coming up with some sketches for how the windows would actually look as they are placed in our church.

The renderings will be far more detailed than anything that has been done up-to-date because that is what we need at this point. He has all the measurements of our facility and has been here several times and once he has the windows in his workshop he will be able to come up with an idea or two on how to integrate them into our space. He is very excited because all his measurements showed that these beautiful windows seem to be made to fit our facility. Once he has these renderings they will be presented to the Parish Council and hopefully be available for everyone to view so we can move forward with some of the windows as we have the donations to pay for them.

During the picnic I was approached by quite a few people who were wondering what the hold-up was. They thought that with the vote of 4 to 1 in favor of the windows that it would go quickly. They didn't realize that I don't do things like this quickly. I try to be cautious so that there aren't any oops situations after we get started or after we are finished. That happens with so many projects that are rushed. It has now been two years since St. Patrick's Church closed and the idea for this project came up. Hopefully we have gotten most of the pros and cons thought through and all the feedback has helped us to think of all the possible problems that could come up. As pastor I have tried to balance all of that information as I go about this decision. Going about this has not been easy but it sure looks like it will be worth it.

There will always be some who question any decision like this. But even though I don't see myself as anything like Mother Theresa, I think of one of her lines. As she observed a person coming toward her that she struggled to deal with, she said to another Sister: "Here comes Jesus in that irritating form." That is how I try to see people who don't like my very imperfect style as pastor and I hope that might be how they describe me.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank