

Jan. 2/3, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

This is the weekend for the party after the 5:30pm Sunday Mass. We can celebrate St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's feast with a fun family event. As mentioned we will have Rocky & Bullwinkle on the big screen, along with Dudley Do-Right, Peabody, and Fractured Fairy Tales. There will be pizza and popcorn and a few surprises. Don't worry about it if you have to come later than 6:30pm, for even though we will start without you, it will be easy to join in on the fun. Just \$5 admission.

I will be praying for you all as we start this new calendar year. May we grow in holiness and always come closer to Christ. The reason we celebrate New Year's Day as a society is that it is supposed to be a time of hope, a chance to start again. Because my head is far more geared to the spiritual world I think of that chance to start new as being possible every time I go to confession. But there are more things that are supposed to give us hope. One of the things that I have been thinking and praying about this last week is the hope that comes from new life, a baby. I watch the joy that comes to people's faces when they see a new baby in their family. But it saddens me when I look at how that is changing in our culture.

One of the reasons we see hope in a baby is that it is the blending of two people's genes to form a unique person. But that new person was meant to be raised by the parents whose genes it came from, who try to give what is best from each of them over the years so that their lives are truly renewed and even improved by the child. It is always their hope that this child will not make any of the mistakes that they made so life for the child will be even better than theirs. That is hope. It is not always a reality but even knowing that things may not go perfectly does not keep us from hoping.

Changes in our culture can really mess this up. So many of the things that people are attempting to do to have that perfect child are actually thwarting the possibility. Trying to give the child too many things rather than giving them guidance can mess things up and create a spoiled child. The new innovations that come from science and the possibility of discarding mistakes (children are too often thought of as mistakes) have started all new problems for the next generation. For many who are looking for the perfect child, the wrong sex, the potential of any abnormality, or just bad timing, can lead to the child being aborted. Now there are ways for the child in its embryonic stage to be tested to see if it is going to be the right child for a couple. Soon there will be ways to genetically enhance children so that they are stronger, healthier and maybe even smarter. This sounds good until you realize that this is how we shop. We want the best product. A child that finds out it is a product rather than the result of a mother and father who were wanting to give their love to each other and the child may not be too happy with the parents. Creating a culture of this kind of product mentality could even ruin good feelings between children and even the most well intended parents. They might feel inadequate compared to other children who have been genetically screened, altered, or created from scratch, and may end up suing their parents because they are not happy with their decisions. It would be perfectly logical since that would be how so many parents will be thinking of their children.

It even gets scarier when we think of all the other genetic experiments that individuals might want to try. I foresee the day when a person asked a doctor to design a human/spaniel combination for their child/pet. Where will we draw the line? After all, it is all it is all about what we desire. May the New Year not bring what we desire unless it is also what God desires.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank