

Jan. 30-31, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

Many of you surely saw the news last weekend of the students from Omaha that were caught in the snow storm as they were coming back from the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The good news is that they all got home safely. Scott Watts, one of our SEAS seminarians, became famous for his "Let It Snow" trumpet solo from a snowdrift. And Conor and all of these students and chaperones have many experiences that they will remember for a lifetime. The better news is that you heard about it. That means that the March for Life received media coverage. When do you ever remember hearing any coverage about that event on local or national news? They usually ignore it or misrepresent it. Several times there have been about a million pro-life marchers and 20-30 pro-choice protesters and the media will cover it so that it would seem that it was equally divided between the two groups. This year God found a way to get the news coverage He wanted. The best part of it was watching all of these young people with such a positive attitude and even joyful as they went through this experience. As you think about it, is that what you would have expected? It shows the amazing graces that God is showering on this generation of young people.

Be sure and R.S.V.P. to attend one of the listening sessions that the Archbishop is holding. With the weather forecast be sure and watch for updates on the one in Ralston at St. Gerald's this Monday. Hopefully any storm will be done by the one at St. James on Tuesday but watch for updates on that also. Maybe I will be able to use my e-mail abilities to communicate any changes from the schedule. Just remember that my weather forecasting abilities are very questionable. But the flyer was in last week's bulletin and is also on the Archdiocesan web-site.

This is Catholic School's Week. The list of some of the events have been in the bulletin. There is Open House this Sunday from 11am-1pm. It might be a good time to take a moment to see the next pre-school set-up. Friday you have a choice. There is the Home and School Fun Night at the SJS gym. There is also the benefit dance for Music in Catholic Schools at the SEAS Parish Center. That is the one that always has wonderful dance music that is at a level that you can even have a conversation while they are playing. There are even some dance lessons and a silent auction. Both are very pleasant evening outings.

You will be receiving your year-end statements for parish contribution in the mail very soon. I included a letter within that packet to update everyone on some of the financial questions for the parish that will hopefully compliment what I preach about this weekend. Since Fr. Cleary will be out in Columbus to help out for a rural priest trying to get a vacation, I will be having all the Masses. That way I can give everyone an idea of the "state-of-the-parish" that I started a couple weeks ago.

We did just have another priest die this past week. Fr. Anthony Wilwerding was around 95 years old. He had retired about five times. He was a priest in the Archdiocese for almost 20 years and then went into military chaplaincy for about 17 years. Then he retired from that. Then he came back to serve in Menominee, NE. That was when he retired for the second time and I was his replacement up there by Yankton. Then he moved to Florida and was talked into helping at a parish down there. Then he retired again. Then he was begged by another parish in Florida to help out and once again he came out of retirement. It is a reminder that criminals might have WANTED posters but priests have NEEDED posters. So keep praying for vocations and pray that our Catholic Education system will keep preparing our young men and women to be great.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank