

Nov. 26-27, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

I hope and pray that you have had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. The attitude of gratitude is such an important part of our faith. There is always something that we can complain about but if we don't have gratitude then we never will be noticing the amazing things that God is doing in our lives.

I met a young man recently who was struggling with his faith because a friend of his had been hurt in an accident. He could not believe that God would allow something like this to happen. Of course none of us would have wanted it to happen but that is what this world includes, pain and suffering. The question that has to be asked at that point is how are we responding to that crisis? This is actually his chance to be a true representative of the love of Christ. If his friend was a guy, to be a brother to him as he dealt with the hardship would be God in action. If the friend was a gal, to be her knight in shining armor and brighten her day with how he showed each day and week that he was there to watch out for her would be a true blessing. That is what we need to be grateful for, even when we are facing tragedy. We are blessed to be able to make a difference and prove our love.

The update on the roofing situation is that the Parish Council has discussed the project and is looking at how this will all work. There have been a lot of great questions that have come from all of you as you gave your input to us. In the next week we will be looking at a limited number of styles and color patterns as they look on actual roofs in the Omaha area. Some of you should already have those by e-mail so you can also check them out.

The consensus is that we go with a metal roof, a darker shade to be determined, and we are still looking at both the Barrel Vault and Classic Look that you saw with the samples I had in church. We are actually going to stay with the shingled look for over the Parish Hall and the rectory because they would be cheaper, but they would have the same color as the fancier looking pattern of the church section. Once we choose the pattern and color it will take six to eight weeks to get the materials. This will give us more time to deal with all the different insurance issues.

No decision was made in terms of the iron trim piece yet. That is something that we will need to have more input from the architect that designed the church. I will be checking on that. They might also know more about what our problems are with the sagging and what might need to be done with it. The good news is that Catholic Mutual has been very helpful in all of this. They are our insurance company.

As we begin this season of Advent we need to realize that Jesus is no longer in a stable. Like King David we want God to have a home among us that is worthy of Him and shows our love. This will make our Christmas collection a very important collection. It will also be the focus of our second collections that we have after Communion. Unless it is mentioned as going to a special fund like last week's Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection, it will be for the roofing project. Have a blessed Advent.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank