

Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

I will be heading east after the Bible Study class this weekend. I will be doing my annual retreat. Usually I have done a four day retreat some time during the summer, but the class I am taking through IPF (Institute for Priestly Formation) on Spiritual Direction has a retreat as a part of the class. This one is an eight day directed retreat. There are 70 other priests from around the country that are a part of this bracket of the class. There is another 70 that are in the second session that meets a week after my group is done. As I had mentioned I meet for this class three times a year at Mundelein Seminary just north of Chicago.

During the retreat there will be a presentation each day from one of the teaching staff and I will also have a meeting with the Spiritual Director assigned to me each day. Other than that, it is supposed to be a silent retreat. I am ready for that. I will take my winter gear and hopefully be able to walk and pray a lot for the eight days. In January when I go out again for another week of classes I will need Arctic Circle gear to do that. I may be able to handle all the heat that Nebraska can throw at me but I am a cold weather wimp.

Next weekend there will be a priest from Cross International helping Fr. Don with the Masses and confessions. You probably have seen their donation envelopes inserted in the Catholic Voice. They do not take up a collection so the second collection next weekend will still be for the roof but Father will have his envelopes available in case you would like to help them out in their work with the poor.

I found out that the air-conditioners for the Church weren't totally installed last weekend, but will hopefully be done this weekend. I'm not too worried about speed for this project. The weather doesn't demand a whole lot of air-conditioning at this point.

You should also know that this Monday and Tuesday are important days for the Archdiocese. The Archbishop is meeting in Norfolk with about 500 lay people from the parishes in the Archdiocese on Monday. The priests will be there on Monday and will also be there on Tuesday. Fr. Don will be taking my place as clergy representative along with Cora Thelan, Shelly Gray, and Vickie Kauffold who is a parishioner who works in the Catholic Schools Office. They will be working with Fr. James Mallon, the author of Divine Renovation, a book on how to revitalize parishes. Please pray for the success of this conference. It's all a part of the Archbishop's Vision for the Church in our area, which is summarized in his Vision Statement: "One Church: Encountering Jesus, Equipping Disciples, Living Mercy."

This will fit into our own parish stewardship weekend which will be Oct. 21. You have seen the financial letter, summarizing the parish's financial situation, so that would help you make your decision concerning the treasure or financial part of stewardship. The time and talent part of stewardship may be a little more drawn out this year because of the Archbishop's hope for new ideas, so stay tuned. Since I will not get back from my retreat until the night of Tuesday, 10/10, there will be no letter from me next week. There will also be a catch-up week for Bible Study readers, **because I will not have Bible Study next Sunday**. That means there is still a chance to start this process without being too far behind.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank