

Mar. 25-26, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

The roof is our major unfunded project right now. For this reason I figured that it would be a good idea to have some of the HOPE funds go toward this project. They have been accumulating for the past few years. As of 12/30/16 the SEAS portion of that fund is over \$11,400. So for the next six months, starting in April, the roofing fund will receive \$2,000 per month from this HOPE money.

Most of you know that the HOPE program doesn't cost the parish anything but obviously is a benefit. Parishioners simply have to think ahead just a little and purchase certificates or cards to be used for purchases of all kinds. There are volunteers selling these gift cards after most of the Masses. You can also order them on-line or get them at the parish office. To order on-line go to: hope@sjsomaha.org. This is a great way to order gift cards for Confirmation, 1st Communion, and graduation gifts; and you help pay for the church roof in the process. See the regular bulletin news for more information or talk to the volunteers at the desk on the west side of the narthex after Mass. I personally use them the most to purchase books on-line with Amazon.

The total bill for the shingling project came to \$134,200. Catholic Mutual paid for the cost of replacing the asphalt shingles on the rectory and the parish hall. That amounted to \$45,900. For us to do the upgrade of metal shingles raised that part of the project by \$19,000. As I had mentioned, the insurance would not cover the replacement of the tiles on the church. The cost for that project was \$69,000. So far we have collected \$12,000 toward this through second collections and direct contributions. With the \$12,000 from HOPE over the next six months we would be at \$24,000. $\$69,000 + 19,000 = \$88,000$. That leaves us \$64,000 for the project. We still intend to try and sell the tile shingles. I counted them and there are about 11,000 of them. That is about 60 tons of tiles sitting behind the building. We do have some interest in them but are still looking for buyers. Anyone need any? I'm sorry to say there are better things to use for paper weights.

I hope your Lenten resolutions are going well. I have to admit that one of my five resolutions is not going like I hoped but I keep restarting. Some of them I do every day during the whole of Lent, like spending an extra hour before the Blessed Sacrament. I have to admit, I don't have to go as far as most of you. For some of them I take Sundays off, like Diet Coke or sweets, etc. Those kinds of things you have to set up your own guidelines. The set Church ones of fasting and abstaining are more a matter of remembering what day it is for most people. I don't have that problem with Fridays during Lent because of all the special activities. But I know that this is something that is a problem for some people. If you haven't set up a special way of dedicating yourself more closely to the Lord, there is still time. We are not quite at the half-way point. But since we are close to that, remember it is also important to get your time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation scheduled.

The Pro-Life Living Rosary will be at St. Peter's Church this year. It will be held on Sunday, 4/2, at 2:30pm, at 2706 Leavenworth Street. Parishes from all around the city of Omaha are asked to be represented. Can you be a part of our representatives?

God bless you,
Fr. Frank