

Aug. 19-20, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

**Please remember that there is no 5:30 Sunday evening Mass next week, 8/27.**

This time I am not looking for a volunteer. Our maintenance person here at SEAS, Leon Kloke, is ready to retire. He has been helping to keep this facility in good working order for many years. It is a part-time job with flexible hours. It involves keeping track of everything at this facility so that things don't go wrong and if they do, to take care of what needs to be fixed. It is like taking care of a really big house, only this one is God's house. If you are interested, or know someone who is, contact me, 402-677-1565.

I was just elected as the Dean for the Priests of this Suburban North Deanery. Our deanery includes a large range: Fort Calhoun, Blair, Fremont, Valley, Elkhorn, and St. Vincent de Paul and St. James with SEAS in Omaha. Mostly it means that I get to go to more meetings with the Archbishop and then orchestrate the follow-up meetings with the priests from those parishes. For years I have asked parishioners to pray for me when I am around a bishop so I don't say anything stupid. If you remember my homilies you know why. The first meeting is from this Monday morning to Tuesday afternoon. That is a lot of time around the Archbishop, so pray that I will be of help to him and not do anything dumb. Actually you should always be praying for your priests in that way.

Next weekend is the Parish Picnic. I hope you can come. One of the most important aspects of this picnic is that it is a chance to meet people. At family picnics the only new person you might need to meet might be a new baby or new girlfriend or boyfriend added to your clan. With a parish picnic you can hopefully meet the new babies, and also a lot of new people; but you have to come to make that happen. If you have young children that you struggle to get to church, just know that they are much more willing to come to a place where they have friends that they know. So if you are wondering what you can do to help your children stay strong in their faith, this is one way you can help yourself and them.

- Purchasing Raffle Tickets is the #1 way to support our Parish Picnic
  - Selling 1 book of tickets results in a free meal ticket for you and/or your family
  - If wanting to only purchase a meal ticket, \$8/person or \$20/family
  - If you purchase two books, you get one free to add to your chances
- Opportunity to Evangelize: Bring a close friend/extended family member and show them how great our parish community is
- Bring lawn chairs, tents and yard games to enjoy with your own family and our parish family
  - Consider joining your parish picnic group with other parish picnic families
- Volunteers are still needed for many areas: The boat only moves when we're all willing to row
  - Service hours count for the mandatory hours needed for SJS families!
- Please bid on Baskets & Bundle items
  - There is a Labor Day Trip to the Wisconsin Dells and many more great items!

-New to the picnic:

- Face painting for kids

- Dunk Tank

- Wine in the beer garden (I know that sounds weird but it is good)

- Yard Games in the Beer Garden for adults

- Bidding Numbers for Baskets & Bundles

-Returning to the Picnic:

- Frozen treats for purchase

- Inflatables for kids

- Games for kids

- Bingo in air-conditioned comfort

- BBQ Dinner

Before you get your hopes up, I will not be sitting above the dunk tank and I don't think Fr. Don will be either. My excuse is that I don't want to get cooled off. I don't know what Fr. Don has as his excuse.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank