

Feb. 24-25, 2018

Thoughts from the pastor,

How is your Lent going? For a priest Lent is mostly about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We hear confessions for the elementary and high school students. Because I am not called for much work with colleges, I only tend to see those students and the other adults later. Some people worry about how boring it must be for priests to hear the same sins over and over again. That is not a problem for me. I really am just praying and working to help the person from where they are, to be a little closer to the Lord.

For some that is answering a few questions. For others it is encouraging them in a particular area. For some it is a matter of offering some insights into strategies that might help them win a battle against a particular sin. And for many it is a matter of praying that the Holy Spirit will guide them in knowing that they have gotten a smile from God the Father, who is so pleased when one of His children acknowledged that they have failed Him but want forgiveness and help in doing better the next week.

Any Father would love to see a child who is in trouble, come and seek reconciliation and guidance. God the Father especially wants us to find our way because He wants us with Him and not with the kingdom of Satan. A parent who doesn't know if their child is safe while the child is out on their own is always concerned. When we go to confession, it is letting God the Father know where we are. We might not be in a good place, but when we call; it is like the commercials in which the teenagers have had an accident. A person in the confessional is like the teenager who got help from the insurance agent. The one who doesn't have the correct insurance is more like the one who keeps trying to do things without confession.

Jesus paid the price for the insurance, but if we don't use it or go to a different company; we will be in trouble. No one but Jesus has the right currency to make a payment like that in heaven. So be sure and check in with your agent, or rather, your priest for confession and you will be in good hands.

Our parish mission starts next Sunday evening. You might not be able to come every evening but I hope you will come whenever possible. Fr. Larry Gillick may be blind but he knows the way. So find your way to the church next Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday at 7pm.

Last Sunday I asked people to discuss the first line of the Gospel reading with their family. "The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert." What vehicle did the Spirit use? It sounds like a silly exercise but that is the kind of thing that my Dad had us do after Mass. We had some of the goofiest answers but I guarantee we remembered the readings better that time and the next time because we were looking for goofy questions we could pose to Dad. Without realizing it we were catching many other bits of wisdom that people who weren't having that kind of discussion would have missed.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank