



Reflections of the pastor 3.3.18

Maybe it was the freezing temperatures that slowed down my reflections and the flow of my writing. I had planned this for an early January publishing. Perhaps it was the shock of realizing that on February 19, I began my fourth year as pastor of St. Ignatius. But as I look forward to a spring thaw, my words are breaking through the ice and bubbling up.

The Recent Past: First of all, thanks for all who attended the AGM on November 16th, 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. It was a fine assembly and the reports were enlightening and succinct. There was a fine report from Ruth Chipman, one of our representatives, on the progress of the Archdiocesan Synod. Thanks also to all who made our Advent and Christmas seasons prayerful and holy. It was a wonderful season. Thanks to Lynne Campbell, Youth Co-ordinator, who ran a very successful Bible Camp in the first week of January. It was fully subscribed. Thanks also to all the volunteers for their assistance. You will have noticed that since the beginning of January we now are able to read the words and see images in stereophonic vision in our Church, thanks to David Androvic and Chris Janes. The screens are great. We are looking to replace the south projector which does not shine as brightly as the north one. Thanks also to all who made the El Sitio celebration much fun and successful. The Knights and all the volunteers made it a splendid dinner and evening. Don't forget to read the latest report from Ruth Chipman and Mike Radcliffe our representatives on the Archdiocesan Synod!

The Future: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is getting rolling on furthering a strategic plan study for our Church begun over four years ago. A subcommittee has formed under the leadership of Carmine Militano, Greg Sylvestre, and David Reid to continue the work. David Lalama and Bill Burns have begun a study to assess the entire parish/school plant in regards to its state and needs for the future ten years. We are hoping to get some solid data and perhaps even some plans to the AGM in November 2018. It is so important to get a context for our elevator dream for the Church. More and more it is becoming obvious that having access to our hall and church for all is essential to our St Ignatius Parish community's future.

A Family Ministry: Thank you to Suzanne Simpson and Carmela Castellano Sinclair for being attentive to the children and families with young children in our parish. In 2015/2016 they conducted a regular Monday morning Play and Pray Group. Some of their other initiatives include gathering toys for young children and older children to use during coffee and donuts, for coordinating set up and clean up of the toys, acquiring instruments for children for recessional hymn at 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass, assembling play packets for young children for use during Mass, and generally encouraging all in our parish to be more conscious of making our parish welcoming to families with young children.

Finances: It was a novel experience to begin this year's Sharing God's Gifts campaign in January! We still lag behind with our responsibilities for the Archdiocesan assessment. Perhaps by next January we can begin with an absolutely clean slate on all our financial responsibilities.

Refugee update: It's hard to believe that the full year contracted financial responsibility to our refugee family is complete. However, our committee is still assisting the family in non financial matters. A new family has arrived and is being cared for by another parish.

Maintenance: Winter woes– Thanks to Chris and Connor for nursing our ancient boiler systems through a good chunk of winter. So far, so good. Spring is not far away! Our Knights of Columbus council continue their many good works, enhanced breakfasts, selling of grocery cards, and so many other things. On Nov 30/17 Knights painted two rooms in the upstairs Ed Centre– flooring ordered and windows– plans to do stairway, hallway, bathroom and four rooms (two are done). The Knights have established an evening each month to volunteer at working on our Church. They have been refurbishing the 2nd floor of the Ed Centre. Assisting Chris, on Monday, Jan15, the Knights painted the upstairs rooms. Special thanks for the professional help in this project and all previous painting projects to Ken Rymer who did the drywall patching and so much more. It has been decided that the bathroom in the Ed Centre will be completed as a handicap facility thanks to a grant. The good news is that the Music room in the school is now completed. The fire escape is complete and the room is currently occupied with our music making children.

Sacramental Preparation:

Sunday school has an enrollment of 190 this year. Thanks to the generosity of all our catechists and assistants, and especially our Sunday School principal, Lucy Vogrig, students not only are receiving instructions in the faith but many are getting ready to receive Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist and to experience forgiveness of their sins in the sacrament of Reconciliation. The faculty and staff at St. Ignatius School are carrying out the same ministry with our students there. Our archbishop will confer the sacrament of Confirmation on all our young candidates in our Church at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15th. RCIA has four adults preparing for Baptism and seven for confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Please pray for all of them.

Through many years a vast group of generous couples have given wonderful service to young couples preparing to celebrate the sacrament of Matrimony. Three times a year at least 15 couple have organized and presented a program which begins on a Friday evening and finishes at noon on Sunday. A Herculean effort, and one which is so important to give a firm foundation to support and nurture the central core of the Church, the family! In the two very successful 'WED' events during this past year, fourteen couples have benefited. Thank you to all our volunteer couples for their continued generosity and goodness. Currently we are attempting to discover how to enable this essential ministry to continue.

Although things seem sometimes to happen in increments, there are many exciting and challenging things transpiring in our parish and school. I trust that we will continue to meet all of them with prayer, good will, and hope. May God continually bless us as we prepare during these Lenten days to celebrate the Paschal mystery, Jesus' suffering, dying, and rising, in the three day greatest liturgy in our Church, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Saturday Vigil.

Peace and prayers,



R. Frank Wenzel

St. Ignatius Parish

