



Reflections of the pastor 10.12.18

Summer: – Many are asking “where did the summer go?”, a question we ask every September. One thing that we can all agree on is that we did have a SUMMER! And once again this fall, parish and school are stirred with life. Thanks to so many who assisted during the summer schedule to enhance our liturgies with song and music; Chas van Dyck and the choir cantors, Don Fraser and Malcolm Bird, Dale Rogalsky, and Joe Madden and his trusty cohorts. Thanks also to the communion ministers, lectors, Mass co-ordinators, altar servers, and ushers. Our trusty ‘counters’ were faithful right through! Thanks also to Lynne Campbell, our youth Coordinator, assistant Janelle Hladik, and their faithful volunteers for running two Bible Camps, one at the beginning of summer and one just before school started. Both camps were fully subscribed. Congratulations! And a great big thank you to the committee who organized our Festival of Friends/Patron Day feast and the Knights and other volunteers who made it happen. An added fête was Fr. Joe’s 40th anniversary as a Jesuit! The entire wonderful celebration took place in the Parish Hall which even sported a bouncy castle for the children. THANKS TO ALL!

Two groups have been working diligently over the summer in regard to the Parish Strategic Planning (PSP); a preliminary written report ready to be studied, ‘Facility Condition Assessment’, was generated in July! Thanks to these groups. The auditors came to assess our books in the last week of September. We look forward to their report. I hope that soon we will have all the data necessary to begin concrete plans for our parish’s needs, particularly our dream elevator. There will be reports about progress at our **Parish AGM on Thursday, November 15th, at 7:30 p.m.** Please mark that date on your calendar.

Thanks to Fr. Peter Monty who assisted through the month of July enabling Fr. Joe and me to get in our 8 day retreat and a little holiday time. Thanks to Frs. Eduardo and Perry for their assistance, particularly during the Priest Study Days in September. They enabled me to attend fine sessions on Transgender and Islam topics. At that same time Fr. Joe represented the Canadian Jesuits at the Canadian/American Conference on parishes in Milford, OH.

Our Liturgy committee chaired by Tannis Scott has met to assess our current ROAR campaign and liturgical temperature. A sub committee headed by John Conci has completed a project of searching for and acquiring a large nativity set. We have just completed our fall ROAR campaign to encourage new participants to sign up to assist us in our major ministry of the parish– to worship our loving God at the Eucharist.

Maintenance: – The summer is so short for Chris Janes and his staff to accomplish the long list of repairs and maintenance projects, besides doing the regular maintenance of our grounds, school, Ed Centre and Church.

School: Major works were completed in our school including the renovation of the computer room, relocating the Sunday School Office, and, by removing the wall between the old Sunday School office and storage room, centralizing and enlarging the Maintenance office and storage. The Grade 3 classroom was repaired as well as the patching and repainting of all the hallways. The old cabinet from the computer room was remolded for use as storage in the school library. New lights were installed in the Gym change rooms and, as per usual each summer, all the carpets were shampooed and other floors were stripped and waxed! Thanks to Abraham Salvador and David Folayan for their herculean efforts with Chris Janes in preparing the school plant for opening of school.

Ed Centre: Major works were also engaged in our Ed Centre. The hall outside the chapel is almost completely renovated. The ramp has been widened, the long closet moved a little further west, and the small kitchen has moved into the room just west of Valerie Forrest's office with new cabinets installed there. So that we are properly in code for fire regulations, a new fire door separating the Ed Centre and Church has been installed. In process is new flooring, a ceiling with LED lights, painting and plumbing fixtures to finish off renovations for the renovated hallway and our newly framed and plumbed handicap washroom. All this was done by Chris Janes, Connor Magee, and Joe Janes, with the major costs being the installation of plumbing and electrical, and the washroom fixtures! Twelve new West and South windows were installed in the Ed Centre completing Phase 2 of our 'green' program. Last summer the north and side windows were replaced. Next summer will complete the entire Ed Centre Windows project! A new wall and door have been added to create the 'data' room at the west end of the Ed Centre hall and a new 100 amp panel was installed to enable future development of our security system. Lastly the large room on the 2nd floor has been divided to form a fine board room and prayer room.

Church & Exterior: Our Church received new eaves on the south roof of the Church. The Church and Ed Centre stone was repointed. Chris and Connor repaired the steps on the west side and the landing at the Ed Centre steps on Jessie Street. The steps on the north entrance were repaired and repointing took place. In the basement, adjacent to our Parish Hall, a new storage room was built with a loft for hardware and tool storage. A part of this was the reorganization and clean up of all the storage, maintenance, and boiler rooms. As everyone found out this summer, the ceiling fans in the Church have succumbed to age. We have received an estimate for replacing these essential items for both summer and winter air control in our Church with its sixty foot ceiling. We will determine a time for installation. I was very grateful for the small tower fan donated by a kind parishioner for the Reconciliation Room. Currently, cameras are being installed for security in the reconciliation room, office, and in the Ed Centre. It is unbelievable what was accomplished in just two and a half months! Thanks to Chris, his small crew and his volunteers.

Our School and Sunday School. – As mentioned it is always a feat to get the school ready for the new school year. New appropriate and versatile furniture and electrical outlets were added to the computer room. All that was done to serve the 250 students who entered our school's doors in September. Preliminary number of students registered for our Sunday school is very healthy too, 120+ to date.

Our parish and school continue to be full of energy and challenges. Let us continue to thank our loving God for the many gifts with which we are showered constantly. May God bless all of you always.

Peace and prayers,



R. Frank Albright



St. Ignatius Parish

Please mark your calendars Parish AGM (Annual General Meeting) on Thursday, November 15th, at 7:30 p.m.