



## *Reflections of the pastor 6.9.18*

Here it is, almost the middle of June! Finally winter has disappeared and summer is attending on us! And in three weeks we begin our summer Mass schedule. As I begin my fourth year as your pastor, I am still overwhelmed by the complexity of our parish and with the generosity of so many that enable our parish to be vibrant and stellar. The following singles out only a few of those generous parishioners!

### **Many Thanks!**

Thanks to all who made Lenten and Easter liturgies prayerful and holy. Thanks to our Liturgy Committee, the co-ordinators for each of our six Sunday observance Masses, our musicians, and many other volunteers.

Thanks to the Knights, and in particular Dave Wood (may he rest in peace having served the parish and the Knights so well!), we enjoyed two very tasty lenten fish fries (March 3 & 23). Many enjoyed that treat after praying the Way of the Cross organized by the Development and Peace Committee, John Conci and his stalwarts. They have consistently carried on the Development and Peace program in our parish for ten years under his egis and countless years before. This year they raised almost \$5,000.00. Thanks to Lynne Campbell, our parish youth coordinator, and parish volunteers for heading up the D&P Thinkfast. Twenty-seven youth fasted and raised a goodly sum also! (Speaking of Lynne Campbell, with the Knights' and youth assistance, she has transformed the Youth Room in the Church Hall. Peek in at Donuts and Coffee after Sunday Mass.)

We've had a raft of retreats: Not counting all the retreats in the Education Centre, like the RCIA retreat, we had First Communion and Confirmation retreats, and the three evening Eucharistic retreat (35, 34, 31 came to the Eucharist workshop/retreat evenings March 14-16!). We rejoiced in the children who celebrated First Confessions and First Communion of Sunday School and St Ignatius school and the 47 who were confirmed by Archbishop Gagnon on May 15. Thanks to the multitude who organized and prepared all of these!

A special thanks to all of the groups who carry on so many ministries in our Church community and beyond. Here I mention only one, the PPC (Parish Pastoral Council). Thanks to Kathleen Reid, Ana Stipanovic, and Roland Buduhan for completing their three year commitment to the Council. Thank you to Edward Arreza, Jennifer Bird, and Janice Wood for accepting the invitation to serve on the Council.

Thank you to Ruth Chipman and Mike Radcliffe for accepting the responsibility to serve our diocese on behalf of our parish on the Archdiocesan Synod. They enthusiastically represented our community at this important two-year event in the life of the Church here in Winnipeg which concluded on Pentecost Sunday. You can read their reports on our web site.

WED (Weekend of Engaged Discovery)– a meeting is planned to ensure this essential ministry of preparing young couples for the sacrament of marriage continues. A special thank you to all those who help our young to live the sacrament of marriage well and be the heart of the Church.

We continue our Strategic Planning for our Parish thanks to the generosity of many people. Carmine Militano, Greg Sylvester, and John Reid are well on their way in interviewing constituents of our complex congregation to help determine what we would like our parish to look like in five years. The committee reported to the PPC (Parish Pastoral Council) on May 17 on their progress. Assessment of our entire plant by engineers is being carried out this June as I write this missive. Perhaps soon we can envision our dream of an elevator to make our Church accessible to everyone!

**Maintenance:** Thanks to Chris and Connor our furnaces have been nursed to complete last winter with minimum of expense. The leak in the roof above the Corydon entrance has been patched. The restoring of the roofs above that entrance and the sacristy is in the works. For the protection of individuals, the clergy, and the Church, electronic surveillance hardware and software are being installed in the office and reconciliation room. An electronic lock is being installed in the music room (in the south part of the sanctuary). With greater security we hope to minimize the potential theft of equipment. Thanks to all those who assisted Chris in getting the large screen mounted in our hall. That and the projector (kudos to David Androvic and Chris) make our facility even more useful for many events).

**Our School:** Our principal, Jeannine Pistakwa, reports that enrollment for next year looks healthy and that the school is on target for this year's budget. Our Bursary committee submitted to me recommendations regarding bursary applications for school year 2018/2019. I sent out letters to families on May 17 approving, on the parish's behalf, \$55,000.00 in bursary assistance. Without this assistance many of our parish children would not be able to attend our school, St. Ignatius School. Thank you!

**Finances:** By the middle of May we paid off all our outstanding past debts to the Archdiocese. Hurrah! Sharing God's Gifts for this year is well on its way; we are over half way to our goal of \$59,000.00. It would be grand if we can have ALL this year's Diocesan obligations met by December 31, 2018 and begin the new year, 2019, at \$0.00

Many exciting and challenging things continue to happen in our parish and school. With gratitude to our loving God, we trust that we will meet all of them with prayer and good will and hope. May God continually bless all of you as you enjoy our longed for summer.



Peace and prayers,

*R. Frank Albright S.J.*

P.S. -- Please mark your calendars for our Festival of Friends/Patron's Day 11 a.m. Mass and celebrations on Sunday, September 9th!



*St. Ignatius Parish*