



Reflections of the pastor 10.18.19

And then suddenly it is Fall! And rain...and rain...and rain, and then SNOW. Summer went so quickly and it is no wonder. So much happened even while many enjoyed water, sun, and some leisure. And much of it was repairs and maintenance under the supervision of Chris Janes.

Basement: There was much activity just in the basement of the Church. The storage areas in the walls and work spaces were cleaned up. New ceilings and LED lights were installed in the corridors on both sides of the hall. All the web of wiring hidden above those ceilings were sorted out and organized, a big job in itself. There was a massive clean up of "Joe's Room" beside the stage. More lighting was added to the stage area to make it suitable centre for a new school program in Band that was added as an after school program at the school this fall. A larger ramp door off Jessie Street was installed to better secure the building and enable larger items to be brought in.

More Doors: Two more new doors were installed. The doors facing Corydon Ave were rotted and the steel security bar was a safety hazard. (People could get trapped between the locked downstairs door and the door into the Church!) They are now replaced and simply need aesthetic attention (i.e.– finishing the top and sides with wood to match the Church's decor). The other door which was replaced was at the administration entrance. It too became a hazard particularly to the elderly who choose that entrance rather than negotiating the steep front steps of the Church. A little paint will make that new door less ugly and we wait for an electronic opener which will make it a safer ingress for those who need.

Washroom: The handicap washroom is now in operation at the end of the chapel hallway and the door leading to it will continue to be left ajar.

Ed Centre: Another of our 'green projects' is complete. During the past three summers all the windows in the Education Centre have been replaced. The prayer rooms and other upstairs rooms of the Ed Centre have been repainted. The wall at the end of the main downstairs hall has been removed and two little rooms consolidated to house the 'guts' of our parish electronic system (Thanks to Dave Androvic for all his assistance in this and many other projects in our complex!). The safety security cameras in the Ed Centre, Reconciliation room, and front office are working successfully.

Grounds: At last we have been able to budget for some more ambitious improvements on the grounds. A general clean up of the grounds included the removal of the dying Weeping Birch north of the rectory and the huge Lilac which was blocking the view of the Corydon sidewalk and street. The little quadrangle east of the administration building and the growth at the base of the wall facing Stafford was cleaned up. More soil was added at all the foundation walls to keep rainwater flowing away from the building. The walk way to the Corydon entrance received a fresh layer of rock. Go have a look at the south side of the Ed Centre on Jessie Street. An addition of trees, shrubs, hedges, wood and rocks on the south side of the Ed Centre, not only provide an aesthetic improvement but in addition will keep rain water flowing away from the building! Work proceeds on the Jessie side of the Church too.

Our School: Our school also received some good attention during the summer. Not only was the regular summer maintenance completed on time, but a renewed electronic system was installed to provide greater safety and convenience at the entrance of the school. New carpets replace the worn out ones in five of the class rooms. The grade eight class room was completely transformed to facilitate group learning. Twenty new wheeled cabinets, built in the Church workshop, were added to enable teachers to easily transport learning materials from room to room as needed.

Thanks: A special thank you to Fr. Peter Monty who assisted us through the month of July. Because of his generosity I was able to have a full three weeks away, eight days for my annual retreat, and thirteen days for holiday! Wonderful. Fr. John Perry assisted me for a couple of weekends in the month of August, and enabled Fr. Joe to have his turn on retreat and holiday time. Unfortunately our Spanish Mass had to be cancelled because of Father's absence. Thank you also to all those who were communion ministers, lectors, ushers, musicians, and coordinators of the three summer months!

Youth: Under the leadership of our Youth Coordinator, Lynne Campbell, at the end of July Omar Guanarita, his wife Caroline Parrado, their daughter Sara and two youth, Isabella Monchamp and Rhian Hunt made their way with lots of supplies to Pukatawagan. Father Dhana was a wonderful host and the group shared their experience with our parish with a video before Mass in September. Congratulations to them. At the end of August there was another fine Bible Camp held in the Parish Hall organized by Lynne Campbell and ably run by Thilini Liverauk and her team (which included her mother!). Thank you for the good work!

Festival of Friends: Thanks to Thecla and so many others who assisted our Festival of Friends was a great celebration. Thanks to the generosity of so many there were booths set up to educate us about the many ministries of our parish and to encourage more to join in our army of volunteers. The music by the Spanish community group and the Church choir enhanced our celebration at the 11 a.m. Mass!

Knights of Columbus: Besides assisting at the Festival of Friends, our Knights, Council 5808, continue to serve us so well! The breakfast they served just last week was tasty and the breakfast is a terrific vehicle to build our community.

Synod and Jesuit Preferences: As we head towards Advent, we have an abundance of reflecting and praying to do in order to absorb and put into action the spirit of the 42 statements of our Archdiocesan Synod and the Jesuit four "preferences" ("to show the way to God through discernment and the Spiritual Exercises; to walk with the poor, the outcast of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice; to accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future; and to collaborate in the care of our Common Home). Our call is not only to build the kingdom of God in our own parish and in our Archdiocese with our Archbishop, but to broaden our scope to include our province, country, and world.

These continue to be exciting times in our parish, archdiocese, and our Church.

Blessings on everyone.



R. Frank Albright S.J.



St. Ignatius Parish

Please mark your calendars Parish AGM (Annual General Meeting) on Thursday, November 14th, at 7:30 p.m.