



Reflections of the pastor 10.16.20

And then came fall. "What happened to summer?" I know there was a wonderful one with perfect weekends. I spent three glorious weeks of it in an August retreat and holiday at Last Mountain Lake in Saskatchewan. Now suddenly it's October!

Despite my brief absence (or maybe because of it?) and despite the COVID 19 reality and the physical absence of many of you in the church, things continued to happen in our parish.

Streaming of Mass: A constant has been the streaming of Masses since our 'shutdown' on March 18th. Your virtual presence at those Masses has been a consolation. But, what a joy finally to have public Masses, first with twenty persons allowed, and then because we could follow protocol by having two separate entrances and exits, a total of 100. All this happened because of our trusty technicians, David Androvic, Lorenzo Dimson, Markel Seitz, and Orlando Athayde, the overall organization of Chris Janes, his staff dutifully sanitizing the church, the assistance of our Knights of Columbus in screening parishioners at the doors, and – for Sundays six months straight– the music ministry of Dale Rogalsky and Lestor Espiritu. (Chas Van Dyke and our choir cantors began to serve us in September and Dale and Lestor have generously taken on the newly added Sunday 5 p.m. Mass), and our absolutely faithful lectors Chantal Bishop, Patrick Fawcette and Louise Conci. In all this our own Indira, assisted valiantly by Lorenzo Dimson, provided endless hours of office support.

Serving the Parish in summer: I was solo priest from the time of Fr. Joe's early June departure until Fr. Con Mulvihill's happy arrival in July. We had hoped that Father Joe could return in September for appropriate 'good byes', but with the recent fresh COVID break out and subsequent protocols, that is delayed. Father Con became a veteran associate pastor very quickly taking full responsibility shortly after his arrival. Because of the COVID Fr. Peter Monty was not able to be with us this summer. Special thanks to Fr. John Perry, for his Tuesday Masses which enabled us a day of respite for each week we were alone.

Sacraments catch up: Celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation for our patient youngsters at the end of July was a tremendous joy. Despite the Province moving us back to the Orange protocol category last week, 'faith gatherings' are allowed to continue as before. Therefore, our First Communion candidates will receive Jesus for the first time at two of the October Saturday streamed Masses. Those who cannot attend, can join them on line.

Farewell to Lynne Campbell: Unfortunately, because of the Covid situation the parish has terminated the Youth Co-ordinator position. A huge thank you to Lynne for her ministry to our parish through the past four years. Besides the many youth activities she sponsored in the parish, her constant presence in the parish and school, her Bible camps during the summer and at the New Year, as well as her Alpha programs, and especially the outreach she spirited to Pukatawagan to assist Father Dhana's ministry were great contributions. We shall miss her.

Youth ministry: Although our Youth Co-ordinator Lynne Campbell was laid off, she continued to volunteer during the summer. She created a "non contact" group who worked through the summer. This small youth group met regularly on line through the summer and assisted a few other young people to meet virtually. They also created online activities for others.

Thank you to Valerie Forrest: Because of the COVID 19 situation, one person who has been a solid steadfast and intrepid foundation in our parish has retired in a very quiet manner. The Education Centre has been Valerie Forrest's bailiwick for over 25 years! We've all benefited from her organizational expertise and her peaceful and competent administration. She finished

her ministry at the Centre with no fanfare just as she served all these years without fanfare—each year spear heading the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, running the RCIA program, welcoming the many groups who met regularly – the Mothers’ Prayer group, the Bat Kol group, the Quilting group, to name just a few. In everything she did, Val provided a warm welcoming meeting space to so many parish groups. No one can replace her.

Until we can settle into a more normal pattern of Education Centre ministry at St. Ignatius, Fr. Con has taken on the leadership there, continuing the programs the Education Centre can still maintain during these pandemic days, especially the Spiritual Exercises and RCIA programs.

Sunday School: Sunday School has begun in the Loyola Lounge, the Hall, and the stage area, but with only three classes: Confirmation, 1st Communion, and 1st Reconciliation. Thank you to our Sunday school principal, Lucy Vogrig, and our intrepid teachers, Emeka Nnadi & Anna Stipanovic, Margaret Dusik & Adam Dusik, and Cynthia Muncal. Thanks to Chris Janes for setting up the class areas. Thanks to the Ed Centre and our fabulous Knights Council for loaning the AV carts for two of these classes and to our generous Knights’ Council for purchasing and assembling one additional AV unit (cart/screen/dvd) for the third class!

Summer Church Projects: Projects at the church continued through the summer: the fire escape and the north entrance to the Ed Centre were scraped and repainted. The beautiful lawn art of Chris Janes was completed on the South side of the Church— the garden of Gethsemane and the crucifixion. Go and admire. The Knights have had work days to repaint the hall windows. Knight Malcolm Bird has assisted painting outdoor doors and walls at the school. The blue is splendid. Thanks. The north stairwell steps are now finished. They look grand! Once the wooden door decoration and holy water font are installed that entrance will be completely refurbished.

Our School Opens: Our school opened in September thanks to the Herculean efforts of our Principal and her staff. It is the miracle of Mrs. Pistawka’s energy, organization, creativity, and stamina that our school is, even in these troubled times, a safe centre of learning and formation for our children. Congratulations and thanks.

Construction: We have weathered the virus up to now and also the constant construction. For much of the summer, staff parking was on the green. Since the start of school, there is access to our small church lot. In a few weeks, the Corydon section of the construction should be completed. Hurrah. Next year we’ll have to face construction on the Stafford section.

Finances: Thank you to all who have been so assiduous in their donations to keep our Church in operation. As you notice in our bulletins two of our faithful counters, Louise Conci and Peter Van de Mosselaer have come ‘to count’ only every two weeks. Overall, currently donations are significantly down, as much as \$5,000.00 weekly. The auditors have done their work this month and we wait for the report to see how we fared in our last financial year. I haven’t figured out yet how to orchestrate an AGM (annual general meeting) this year.

Courage and perseverance: It is so important to remember that God is present in our lives and in our parish in everyone and in everything that happens. At St Ignatius Parish, we continue to pray and discern God’s presence and we try to be attentive to responding to the nudges and directions our God gives. Almost sixty years ago my master of novices in the Jesuit Novitiate used to tell us, ‘Courage and Perseverance’. I still find that advice pertinent today.



Blessings on everyone.

R. Frank Albright, S.J.



St. Ignatius Parish