



Reflections of the pastor 6.10.16

It is hard to believe that this is my second summer as your pastor. Thank you for your patience as this academician tries to grow pastor wings. Thanks also to all those who assisted our worship through this year, our central purpose as God's people. Thanks to the many who have been assisting our parents in teaching our youth the Faith and all those who prepared our youth for first confessions, first communions, and confirmation, and the celebrations after each! Thank you too to so many of our parish who, often invisibly, continually serve our parish members and those in our larger community. Thanks also to our Knights who hosted the Easter vigil reception, multiple pancake breakfasts, and so many other events. I thank the ROAR (Reach Out And Respond) team and all those who have signed up for summer Worship ministry. It is so important that we worship properly even in the summer time and it takes many to help us do that! As you have read in the Bulletin the Summer Mass schedule begins on July 2/3 and ends on September 24/25. (Saturday 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; 3:40 P.M., 9:00 p.m.)

Archdiocesan Synod: As you have also read in the Bulletin Archbishop Gagnon has called us to an Archdiocesan Synod. It has already begun and will go through three phases during the next two years, listening sessions, focus sessions, and then general sessions to reach the implementation commission. What is the synod? It is an opportunity for us as Church in the Archdiocese to go through a process to enable us to share our faith and determine how we can become better disciples of Jesus in our present time. It is important that we all accept the invitation to participate. More about this later.

Maintenance: We can be very grateful for our staff at the Church and to so many parishioners for the vitality of our parish. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus and Chris and Connor the washrooms near the information window have been refurbished and one even sports a change table. The painting of that same area and in the Information Centre is complete. During this year maintenance has maintained three cornerstone principles in its programs: reducing energy costs, providing better accessibility, and better delivery of service (working to look after the parish plant more efficiently.) Thanks to the Knights 305 of our lights in the church and school have been replaced by LED's. A pattern for window replacements has been established. We began this year with the sacristy, next year the Education Centre, and so forth, yearly, as our budget allows.

Update on the lift and elevator: Given the enthusiasm for making our parish hall accessible for all, following consultation with the PPC, the PFC, and approval of the Archbishop, a contract was signed with Otis to replace the lift to the Hall on the Jessie side of the church. Thanks to the donations of many people we will have it in place by the end of summer. Work by Chris and Connor has kept the cost of the project to \$40,000. (30,245.00 for the lift itself) A proper elevator is still on the agenda, our dream of having a proper way for disabled parishioners or guests more easily to access our church and hall on the Jessie side. It is a critical item which will facilitate making decisions about how best to utilize our huge plant efficiently. Some very generous parishioners and friends of the parish did preliminary work to assess a cost of such a project. Two options were presented to the finance committee to consider. A design which least impacted the exterior of the church and its foundations was the favourite. The ball park cost was also an important factor. We hope to have a concept design for public viewing and discussion of this project venture ready for the November 2016 parish AGM (Annual General Meeting). Exciting.

Parking: Investigations regarding configuration of parking space, cost, and impact on the school, neighbourhood, etc., have begun concerning the possibility of on site parking at St. Ignatius. It is hoped that some specific information and a proposal can be provided for discussion by our November parish AGM (Annual General Meeting).

City permits: Two projects, the erection of our new parish sign and the construction of the fire escape/music rooms at the school, are pending waiting for the work permits from the city.

9:00 p.m. Mass: You are aware that a group of parishioners has been meeting about the 9 P.M. Mass. The focus has been to make the Sunday evening Mass attractive particularly to youth. On the recommendation of this committee, a person has assumed the duties of coordinating the music for Sunday evening worship. He will find and train musicians and will be paid a monthly stipend for these services. It has begun. Come and see (and hear)! Further recommendations have been put forth which are currently being considered. More about that later.

Refugee update: Like many other groups in Canada we have been stymied by our government's inability to complete the program they initiated. Our Refugee committee has worked efficiently and diligently to provide everything for a family. Currently we are renting an apartment beautifully furnished which waits for our family. We pray that the path will be cleared for them soon.

Technology: Our use of the technology in the church has been expanding in the past year thanks to some of our computer savvy parishioners. It is wonderful to have the congregation looking up rather than in the books. To prevent crinked necks a second screen will be installed on the Corydon side of the church. Our parish web site is being updated. The new version will be on line later this summer. It will enable us to have greater control over the material posted on it and will have a different look. It is not complete because we could only budget a small amount for its development this year. We will budget a similar amount for next year so that it can grow to what we want it to be.

Youth Ministry: Our youth ministry team has been doing wonderful work with our youth. Currently they and the Youth Ministry Committee have been examining and updating protocols and policies to discover how our ministry to our youth can continue to be effective.

Our School: This is the first year our school will be run on a tuition basis. It will be a challenging time for the church and school to make this transition. There were 33 requests for bursary assistance for the next school year. Applications were rendered anonymous and a committee vetted them making recommendations to the pastor. A total of \$43,600.00 from operating expenses of the church was approved for bursaries for the coming school year. Thank you parishioners for enabling our parish students to attend our school.

Finances: We are slowly paying off last year's commitment to Sharing God's Gifts. By the end of May we still owe \$48,000.00. We are in better shape than we were at this time last year! We have been encouraging parishioners to use Pre-authorized Contributions especially to help keep our cash flow for the summer months.

Other: No current action on the Residence as yet. Our parish telephone system is being evaluated.

We are blessed in finding Indira Rampersad to take over Leslie's daunting post in the parish office. I am grateful that she has been able to learn so much in such a short time! She has big shoes to fill. Thank you, Indira.

There are many exciting and challenging things happening in our parish and school. I trust that we will meet all of them with prayer and good will and hope. May God continually bless all of you.

Peace and prayers,



R. Frank Albright, S.J.