



Reflections of the pastor 9.10.16

Summer is now history and we look forward to fall and a brief winter. Thanks to all who have served our worship during the summer months! We look forward also to Festival of Friends on September 18th. Make sure you mark your calendars to attend the fun and frolic activities after the 11 a.m. Mass. On that day too Sunday School launches its first classes, parishioners have the opportunity to sign up to serve in our worship ministry (ROAR -- Reach Out And Respond) from October to June 30th, 2017 AND also to sign up for one of our many other ministries in the Parish, our parish Out Reach. The 'new' roster of Ministry to Worship will begin to serve on October 1st as we move to our ordinary regular Mass schedule: Saturday 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; 3:40 P.M., and 8:30 P.M. **NOTE WELL the one change;** on the recommendation of a parish committee, the Sunday evening Mass will be one half hour earlier at 8:30 p.m.

Thanks to Fr. Peter Monty for his assistance during the month of August. His visit is always welcome and wonderful. It enabled Fr. Joe and me to get in our eight day retreat (mandated by the Society of Jesus for all Jesuits) and to have some holiday time.

Youth: August marked the conclusion of the contracts of our three youth ministers. Thank you to Nick, Merkal, Lorisa for serving the youth of our parish so well during these past years. Thank you to Brenda Havenor and her youth committee team who are in process of hiring one Youth minister who will co-ordinate all activities and keep us in concert with the Youth ministry of the Archdiocese.

Archdiocesan Synod: you will have noticed the Synod prayer in the back cover of our hymn books. Thanks to Indira, Barb, and our student receptionists, we will be able to pray together regularly for the success of the Synod. You recall that Archbishop Gagnon has called us to an Archdiocesan Synod which has already begun. The first of the three phases (listening sessions, focus sessions, and general sessions) begins this September. Note in the bulletin the times of the listening sessions. You remember that the Synod is a blessed opportunity for us 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. Please accept our Shepherd's (Archbishop Gagnon) invitation to participate.

Maintenance: there has been a change in structure for the care of our school and parish: instead of utilizing a cleaning company, the school now has care takers, providing them with 6 am to 10 pm cleaning/maintenance care. Connor will focus on cleaning/maintenance of our church and the grounds with Chris assisting and overseeing all.

Update on the lift and elevator: Thanks be to God, the hard work of Chris and Connor, and many generous benefactors, our lift at the Jessie Street west hall entrance is now installed and we wait for the required inspection before it can be operational.

As mentioned in a previous Pastor's Reflections, "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 ready for the November 2016 parish AGM (Annual General Meeting)."

Our Sign: After a few delays, by St. Ignatius Day, July 31, our sign was complete and Indira was introduced to the software so that messages blossomed for all to see: AMDG, for the greater glory of God! Thanks to our generous benefactor!

Parking: Regarding the possibility of on site parking at St. Ignatius, investigations about configuration of parking space, cost, and impact on the school, neighbourhood, etc., continue. The hope still is that some specific information and a proposal can be provided for discussion before our November parish AGM (Annual General Meeting).

Refugee update: The Refugee Committee has assisted with a family which was privately sponsored a couple years ago who arrived in Winnipeg this summer. We are waiting for the arrival of another Syrian family (after the Government put the kibosh on our previous family's application). Our Refugee Committee works patiently, efficiently and diligently ready to provide everything for that family. We pray that the path will be cleared for our new family soon.

Technology: a new computer was installed in the parish office to facilitate the software of a new telephone system. Thanks to the efforts of Jan Hasiuk, we have changed our phone carrier to MTS. The change will eventually provide us with a consistent and user friendly system for better communication internally and with the community at large. But there seem to be glitches embedded in our former carrier's software which refuse to be deleted! We hope for a resolution soon. The computer will also be used to program our sign. We still await the installation of the second screen inside the church on the Corydon side. The many other summer projects necessitated delay in this. As reported before, our parish web site is being updated. The new version will be on line soon.

Our School: Our school begins this fall to be run on a tuition basis. This transition will be a challenging time for our church and school. But it is an important change for our church community and its major ministry to our children. Enrolment this year is 232 students (Kindergarten to Grade 8) and 14 nursery school students, compared to 225 and 16 last year. We still await the permit for the completion of the fire escape required to make the newly renovated rooms above the gym habitable.

Finances: We are slowly paying off last year's commitment to Sharing God's Gifts. By the end of August we still owe \$28,000.00 of last year's commitment. We are making progress. Thank you for your efforts in supporting our ministries in the Archdiocese and your patience with our alternate week extra collection for this endeavour. Don't forget to consider Pre-authorized Contributions. The forms are at the back of the church or in the office.

Other: The residence has been a centre for collecting items for the refugee ministry. Thanks to our hard working team for making all of your generous donations available to those who need them.

These are some of the 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.