



Reflections of the pastor 6.28.19

And then it was June! Four months— mostly cold— have slipped by and at last the grass is green, trees have flowered, and summer is upon us, praise the Lord. This short time has been replete with so much in our parish community.

LOTS OF THANKS AND THANK YOU'S!

Thanks to Lynne Campbell, our Youth Coordinator, and her team for their collaboration with the Illuminate Team and for Sharon and Pamela for the abundance of food; ILLUMINATE in February was a fine worship service and was well attended. The Mardi Gras dance was fun. As some may not know, our youth group (about 15 -25 members) meets faithfully every Saturday evening. It was particularly wonderful to celebrate the baptism of one of the Youth Group members, Dillon, at the end of February (and to celebrate the baptism of another 12 year old youth, Zachary, March 16th). On Father's Day, June 16th, the group sponsored a Bake Sale and raised \$500.00 for their planned summer mission trip at the end of July to Pukatawagan.

El Sitio was again a wonderful event this year raising over \$3,000.00 for our sister school in El Salvador. **Thanks** to the many who made it happen!

Two major events in Lent helped prepare us for Easter. Over fifty the first night and over forty on the next two evenings attended the "Mass Retreat" in February 11, 12, 13. The March 11, 12, 13 Parish Retreat was a great success, **thanks** to our excellent animators, Fr. Larry Gillick and Sister Bernadette. Kudos to Winn Leslie for her role in making the 'mission' (parish retreat) happen. Over a hundred attended each evening, and almost all celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation on the Wednesday evening! **Thanks** to Monsignor Comeault and Frs. Sam and Kelly for assisting Frs. Joe, Larry, and me in that.

Thanks to all who made our celebrations of the Paschal Mystery wondrous, particularly the Liturgy Committee, the Musicians, ministers at Mass, decorators, etc. All contributed to help us worship properly at our greatest feasts of the liturgical year. **Thanks** to Gordana Nikolic for creating the purple covers for all the statues and crosses for Passion week. Thanks also for those who with the Knights provided a beautiful and fun reception in the hall after the Easter Vigil. A special **thank you** to the generous benefactors who donated the beautiful large offering paten and the four silver chalices for our worship. We introduced them into our worship on Holy Thursday. **Thank you** also to the benefactor who donated three new vestment chasubles, a green, a white, and blue one for Our Lady's celebrations.

Thanks to all those who prepared our youth for First Communion, First Reconciliation, and Confirmation. What heart filling liturgies to see our children experience the divine mercy of God in the sacrament of reconciliation and to receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity into their hearts in first communion. It was my privilege to assist Archbishop Richard as he Confirmed 44 young people anointing them with the Sacred Chrism and to hear his words encouraging them to take responsibility of living their faith on the evening of May 15 in our church.

Thanks also to the RCIA team under the leadership of Ed Centre Co-ordinator, Valerie Forrest, for the constant and loving preparation they gave to our Candidates and Catechumens for Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion. **And thanks** also to the Spiritual Exercises team who directed fifteen people in completing the 30 week experience of the Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life Retreat. There are fifteen persons prepared to begin the Exercises in October.

Thanks to those who serve on Parish Pastoral Council. Members serve for three years. Their only agenda is the good of the parish. They meet once a month and are the sounding board for pretty well everything that happens in our parish. It is important that there are members on our Council to represent most segments of our diverse and complex congregation. I am always searching for new members for the Council each year.

Thanks also to the team still meeting and working on our Parish plan for the future and our dream elevator. We look forward to a progress report in the fall.

Thanks to Chris Janes, Connor McGee, and our St Ignatius Knights of Columbus the north stairwell has been refurbished with drywall and paint. The panic doors on the Corydon Side of the Church were to be replaced but the 90 year old north doors were too rotten to sustain them. New doors are being constructed. New fans are slated to be installed in the ceiling of the church but the date continues to slip either because of events planned in the church or the unavailability of the installers. We hope the fans will be finally in place by mid summer. The music room at the south side of the sanctuary has been cleaned out and re-organized and walls painted ready for occupation of the paraphernalia associated with our music ministries. The handicap washroom just outside of the chapel is now complete and available for use having had its doors painted recently. It is reserved for handicap persons only.

Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for the wonderful assistance in all our social and liturgical events through these past months! The breakfasts and Fish Fries were superb and most of the parish is probably not aware that they served hundreds of pancakes to the students and staff of our school on Mardi Gras Tuesday!

Thank you parish members and friends of St Ignatius parish for enabling 41 of our children to attend our school next year. Bursary requests for school year 2019-2020 were many and \$62,000.00 was made available to needy families from the parish Operating Fund. Without those monies these children could not attend our school. A heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Thanks to benefactors who have begun a St Ignatius School Scholarship Fund. Perhaps in the distant future there will be enough capital in it to support students who cannot afford tuition.

Father Peter Monty will be coming to assist again this summer during the month of July enabling me to have time for my annual eight day retreat and a couple weeks of holiday time. Fr. Joe will head off in August to make his retreat and get some holiday time.

Blessings on everyone. May the summer be filled with joy and peace for everyone.



R. Frank Albright S.J.



St. Ignatius Parish