



Reflections of the pastor 2.16.19

According to the old adage, "time flies when you're having fun"; we must be having a lot of fun here at St. Ignatius Parish. Has it been almost three months since the Parish AGM (Annual General Meeting)? Thanks to those who came and to those who gave fine brief reports. For those who were not able to come, the reports are on our Parish website.

KNIGHTS Thanks to our ever present Knights of Columbus, not only for pancake breakfasts, but for ushering at Christmas and New Year's, work nights, assisting in Mass, distributing of the offering boxes and tax receipts, Marriage preparation, to say nothing of their contributing to our community providing wheel chairs for assisting parishioners who need transportation in and around the church, to providing a mobile AV unit for the Education Centre, supporting the World Wide Marriage Encounter afternoon session (30 couples attended on Jan 19!), raising over \$12,500.00 renovation of the Hall kitchen by facilitating the sale of Safeway, Sobey, Co-Op cards, and so many other things!

CHRISTMAS Thanks to the benefactor of the new Christmas Creche, a wonderful addition to our Christmas celebrations, and to Chris Janes for completing the scene in our sanctuary with a floating star. Thanks to all who assisted in our celebrations, musicians especially, as well coordinators, altar servers, lectors, communion ministers, decorators, liturgy committee.

While it was a wonderful Christmas season, it was also a time of extra stress on our staff. Connor McGee needed to recover from pneumonia during this time, leaving Chris Janes to deal with a water break at the south west corner of the Ed Centre, two false power outages, snow clearing, all this while suffering illness himself in early January. Thanks to the custodial staff from the School, David and Abraham, who were able to help with the regular cleaning of the Church. And thank goodness we are back to 'kind of' normal now.

THINGS We had planned for the installation of the fans in the Church for January but discovered that tenders for scaffolding were beyond our budget. I will have to consult with the Archbishop in order to get approval for the expense.

We are waiting for the handicap washroom door to arrive and be installed, hoping that it will be operational by Easter. At that time the door to corridor leading to it will always be unlocked, also providing regular access to the chapel. Perhaps the chapel could be a quiet place for mothers to nurse their children during Mass.

In November we finally paid the last installment of our tractor in time for it to conk out after the hard use we put it through with snow removal, mowing, and construction (new walkways, sloping soil away from Church foundations, etc.); The cost of repair was almost two years worth of payments! Just in time for our current snow season, we bought a bigger tractor to handle the work we need it to do. The good news is that the monthly payments at 0% interest are less than we were paying for the worn out old one.

The AV system in our Hall is working well. Thanks to David Androvic and Chris Janes. Since late October, surveillance cameras are now working in three places, the Ed Centre, the reconciliation room, and the front office. For a while microphone cables tended to disappear from the Music room off the south side of the sanctuary. Security is assured now with an electronic lock. All music groups have been issued 'fobs' to facilitate their access.

MORE THANKS Thanks to Fr. John Perry for his weekly assistance at the Parish since the fall.

Thanks to Youth Coordinator Lynne Campbell and her volunteers, especially Chantel Bishop and Malcolm Bird, for their assistance at many events. The Bible Camp at the beginning of the New Year was well attended and successful. Thanks to the St. Ignatius Youth Group and other teens who volunteered at the Christmas Camp, who completed the Alpha program, and who raised \$750.00 for charity.

Special thanks to Carmela Castellano Sinclair and Johnathan Sinclair who spear-headed the weekend marriage preparation event (WED) and to all who assisted in preparing eight couples preparing to celebrate the sacrament of Marriage. Special thanks to Stan and Miriam Amaladas who not only organized a very successful afternoon World Wide Marriage Encounter experience for 30 married couples on January 19, but also who have taken on the coordinating of the Marriage Preparation weekends. Our next Marriage Prep Weekend is April 5 - 7th.

Thanks to Markel Seitz who has been doing some assistant work in the Church and Ed Centre (painting) over these past months.

DEPARTURE We are sad about Fr. Eduardo Soto Para's departure. Having completed his doctorate at the University of Manitoba, his Jesuit Provincial sent him off to his last formal formation in the Society of Jesus, Tertianship, and then has slotted him for important ministry in his own Province of the Society of Jesus. One of the consequences of this is I have been appointed as his successor as Acting Superior of the Winnipeg Jesuits. It took me eighteen years to shed that responsibility when I was in Regina. I suspect it will not take that long here!

FINANCES Our target was to pay off all our all our yearly responsibilities to the Archdiocese by December 31st, 2018. That happened a wee bit later in January! Hurrah! And we have already begun to work on our Sharing God's Gifts for this current year!

PSP Reports were given at the Parish AGM in November concerning progress in regard to the Parish Strategic Planning (PSP); At the moment a space committee is completing a list of needs of the parish administration etc. to give to the architect to sort out possibilities for future concrete plans in our massive plant as a context for our dream elevator.

And so lots of things continue to happen and dreams continue to foment in our Parish and School. We continue to offer gratitude to our loving and provident God, trusting that we will work toward those dreams with prayer, good will, and hope. May God continually bless all of you as you thrive in our current deep freeze.

Peace and prayers,



R. Frank Albright S.J.



St. Ignatius Parish