

Letter From The Pastor: Msgr. William L. Young, III



Dear Parishioners:

You may have noticed something new in the Gathering Space in the church today. Some may be asking, “What’s he up to now?” First, a small bit of history. The large curtain windows in the narthex were a part of the church from the beginning. When the extension in the Gathering Space was added, the windows were moved to their current position and the bottom and top panels were added. Over the last two decades major problems have emerged. The frames holding the exterior windows are rusting and losing their integrity so they must be repaired. If you look closely, you can also see how the frame lines are falling.

We will take the windows out for cleaning and repair. Furthermore, the frames will be polished to remove the rust, treated with a special coating and then covered with an aluminum ‘outer’ frame. The coating will protect the aluminum. This process will help to prevent costly repairs in the future.

The windows are a beautiful part of our church and worth preserving. This is an expensive project (about \$350,000) but far less than the cost of new stained or faceted windows. We have the funds available in our savings, and with the very wise advice I received from our Finance Council and our Buildings and Grounds Committee, we are able to get this restoration project underway. We are also working on improved the lighting for the church. We hope to begin that in the next month or so.

We are continuing to work on construction documents for Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel. The plan to tie in with our current church is being finalized. Hopefully our bid should come in within the next two weeks. Please know that this project, while delayed, will be brought to a fruitful conclusion for our parish community.

Our FunFest is always a great time for our parish. So many family and friends take the time to gather and enjoy one another’s company. There is laughter and extended stomachs as we eat so much. It seems there was a study that demonstrated that **food and drink consumed at a church bazaar has no caloric value or heightened levels of cholesterol**. I cannot verify the veracity of such a report, but if it’s on the Internet — it must be true.

I am happy to report that our primary students were able to return to their classrooms as of this week. We are blessed to be moving forward with our repairs and restoration of our buildings. I cannot thank our volunteers enough for getting us off to a great start and helping with the final move-back weekend. You moved us forward and saved us about \$225,000.00 in cleanup costs. This does not include the many hours and loving service to many whose homes were flooded. There were many meals served, clothes washed, errands run, etc. Our Father in heaven touched the hearts of many during and after Harvey. God has a way of bringing life out of destruction and sadness. He indeed is a God of life in so many ways.

Natural disasters and human-caused tragedies have been with us since the Garden of Eden. They are nothing new to mankind — e.g. 1883 Krakatoa eruption spawned the tsunamis and 36,000 deaths; 1889 Johnstown Flood, 2,209 died – the Great Galveston hurricane of 1900 killed 6,000 to 12,000 people, the list of natural disasters and human caused tragedies is long. Of course, this does not list all the millions killed by the violence of war, abortion, hatred, etc.

In all of this destruction one can always find those who respond with love, generosity, kindness, et al, which proves that God’s love is real and active. God does not abandon His people even when disasters arise. God allows nature to work even when it causes destruction. We live in a fallen world which will not return to its Garden of Eden condition until Jesus returns for the final judgment.

In the meantime, we must live each day in a spirit of faith and hope — faith, that God is God, and he knows what he is doing — hope, that God is always near and will walk with us no matter what is happening in the world. Let us walk with Love each day.

Pace – Bene,

Msgr. Bill