

From the Pastor's Desk:

It is so easy to judge others, so easy to spot the faults in others and ignore our own. I confess that I can be guilty of this as well. I also know that if I focus on what planks I need to remove from my own eye, I become less judgmental, less frustrated by others, and also grow to become a better person. Jesus wants us all to become fully who we are meant to be - and this means examining where we can remove the planks from our eye. It is a freeing thing, and also helps you to see the wondrous presence of God in our loves more clearly.

We will begin Lent this week. A time to examine where we have not lived up to our duties to God, not maintained a loving stance towards our brothers and sisters, and not followed the teaching God gave us when coming as Jesus Christ. It is a time for repentance, but not a time for depression. Look at the great promise of growth that lies on the other side of repenting and removing the planks from our eyes. Look at the new growth that can spring when we do a little "pruning" - I invite all of you to look over the sheet of Lenten activities that we have prepared and sincerely consider which ones you could add to your normal routine (and do a little "fertilizing" as well). I intend to do a little more and see what God has in store for me this Lent.

The architect that we had been recommended for the handicap access project give us an estimate for his services that was unreasonably expensive - I do not intend to waste your money by paying a person a ridiculous fee (far in excess of what we are paying others for similar work). Not wanting this project to get more stalled than it already has been, I have walked the properties with a local contractor and we will be able to have an architect who specializes in church renovation involved for a small fraction of what the other guy was proposing. I will keep you posted as we move forward.

Part of the proposed renovation of the former convent on Regan street was to replace the roof which was beyond serviceable age and beginning to leak (despite our attempts at patching). This week's wind storms were devastating on it and we have found shingles all over the parking lots and areas around the building. We discussed this in Finance Council and it was decided to do the roof repair immediately and not risk water damage inside the building (which has recently had a lot of interior repairs done after the burst pipe of a few years back). I have contacted the architect and contractor working the project to tell them that that part of the job will be done by the time they get here. We were working to get the most reasonable estimate this past week.

I would like to remind you again that we are actively enrolling students at Holy Family Academy. Both Holy Family and The Caring Place provide quality educational options for children. Work at curriculum enhancement, and a variety of financial aid options, make Holy Family one of the most attractive and affordable options for Catholic elementary education in the Diocese. Please pass the word and invite people to call the school and come to take a look. The Caring Place also has a long history of quality early education and care for children - it is truly a gem in the community and a credit to the parish. Please spread that word too.

As we move to Lent, and await the coming Spring, let us not be afraid of a little pruning, or a little fertilizing - the benefits the Lord can work can be wonderful.

Peace,  
Fr. Steve