

Dec. 10-11, 2011

From the Pastor,

Next Sunday there will be no Bible Study at 9:00am. There will be a presentation in the cafeteria after 10:30 Mass with pictures and stories from my Sabbatical. After that we'll break for the holiday season. I am happy to say that I have already had contacts about the "Catholicism" series by Fr. Barron that will start Jan. 8th. This is a ten session series. As I have mentioned the "Catholicism" series is the opportunity for people to join the Church, prepare for catching up on their Sacraments, like Confirmation, or just renewing their faith so please pass the word along to your friends. Remember, from December 18th until January 8th there will be no Bible Study.

This Monday, December 12th, will be the parish penance service at 7:00pm. There will be four priests, Fr. John, Fr. Vitalis and Fr. Kestermeier, S.J., who is familiar to many of you who are from St. Richards. I will be there, too. Does anyone need me to dress in a camel's hair outfit and eat grasshoppers to get you to come and repent? It worked with John the Baptist. This is also the time for our second graders to make their First Reconciliation. If only we would all look as shiny and new as they do after this sacrament.

I would like to share this sabbatical experience with you during this season of Christmas. Our tour guide for St. Peter's, the Vatican Museum, and the Sistine Chapel had a great understanding of church art and architecture and also had a great sense of humor. She was pointing out the images of God in the Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo portrays Him as being very dynamic. The energy in His image as He separates the light from the darkness and then the dry land from the sea is remarkable. When God is portrayed with Adam it is no different. He is dynamic, powerful and filled with energy. Adam looks like he is on some pretty strong medication. He looks like he can barely hold his arm up and then barely lift his hand and then barely lift a finger to reach out toward God. But God stretches out to Adam. Their fingers are just about to touch. The picture captures that split second right before God gives this sleepy man life.

Adam, the first couch potato, was about to receive real life. Of course, he and Eve sinned and we lost most of what that spark of life was to them. Too many of us have not tried to get it back or tried to maintain it after we received it. The Sacraments are the source of that spark now. We can remain or revert to being couch potatoes or we can let that spark of God's life into us and go like crazy. Christmas should be a very special opportunity to renew that spark. God is reaching out to us again. He wants us to have eternal life He has great things in mind for us and it involves being with Him in his kingdom. So I suggest that we all get our tune-up this Christmas and get new sparkplugs.

God bless you all,  
Fr. Frank