

THE HEALTH OF THE BODY

If I told you that you were going to have to face, in quick succession, implants to improve your hearing, by-pass surgery, and life-long medications to regulate your sweat glands which have ceased their function of heat-exchange for you, you'd probably think the end was near. You might not even agree to all the procedures if they were presented to you in the same day.

By analogy, that is what has happened and is happening to Our Savior, but in terms of physical plant. Let me summarize the special event that have overtaken us.

While attempting to fire up the heaters in the church we learned that a crucial component to the units in all four of the church units was rusted through: all we could do by turning them on was to flood the church with carbon monoxide (which I didn't think too many of us would want). They were replaceable, thanks be to God, and so they have indeed been replaced.

On 12-18 Modern Sound came out to re-configure the speaker system in the church to increase the ability of the average person to hear and understand the Scripture proclamation and the homily. We think we know some reasons why it is difficult to understand the spoken word; we think we can correct this. We'll see what the verdict is (it's yours to return to us).

Finally, the toilets just outside Jennings Hall began to back up this past week. This was especially problematic considering these are the units used by our Child Care Center! What we discovered was that there was a "cholesterol blockage" [read: fat and grease build-up] that we could not clear out by sewerage "angioplasty," so we had to do the "by-pass" of laying down a new section of drainage pipe. This is the reason for the digging just outside the office entrance.

This is the bad news. The good news is two-fold. First of all, these three health issues of the physical plant have all been rectified. Second of all, thanks to the generosity of a number of people, either by direct or incidental but always special giving, we have been able to escrow funds for these projects that have paid between 2/3 and 3/4 of the total cost. This has not been an insignificant amount, especially for the church heaters. So we are richly blessed!

So if you like: the body of the parish is getting better, and "Blue Cross" has come through for us. Some of you in the "insurance payments" end are from Our Savior. You know who you are, and we are grateful beyond words. Some are not from Our Savior, and we are equally (perhaps even more) grateful to them, since they do not experience the benefits of their generosity in any immediate way. But I can be nothing but humbled in the face of this whole process of illness, healing and recovery. Once again, the parish proves its capacity to be awesome!