

Here are some major project updates around campus. After much consultation with construction managers from the archdiocese, contractors, and our own operations team, we are finally ready to have the entire church roof replaced this summer, with a start date somewhere in May. The bathroom in the altar server sacristy has been out of commission for a few months due to water leaks and ceiling damage, to say nothing of the peeling paint throughout the church. This is a long overdue project which is needed before any painting or further beautification of the interior of the church can be safely done.

After the church roof is completed, the same roofing company will be replacing three of the four school roofs as well (the junior high roof is in stable condition)! The school roofs will be handled during the summer when school is out. These roofing projects will have large dumpsters involved and other equipment so please follow safety signs and adjust your parking and walking as necessary.

You probably have noticed that there have been several church ceiling lights that are still out. There is good news on that as well. The light fixtures have been properly sized, and we should have that contractor out within this very week putting in energy-efficient LED lights. The lights and fixtures may even be installed by the time you read this, praise God.

--- Reflection: It was about twenty years ago when I was in my second year in the seminary and two of our most lovable seminarians from Kansas, Jared Cheek (23) and Matty Molnar (28) died tragically. One night they and two other seminarians were out drinking at a local sports bar and had too much to drink. They encouraged the driver, Rob Spaulding, to cruise around the lake at Mundelein Seminary. He lost control of the vehicle, and it skidded off the road into the trees. Jared and Matty were in the back seat without seatbelts and died within a day of their injuries. The other two survived.

The driver, Rob Spaulding, who is now a good priest said: *"There are still moments where it catches me in the middle of the day and I'm brought to tears by the loss of those two men,"* he said. *"And I don't think that will ever go away."* How often have he and the other survivor reflected on the foolish decisions that brought them all to that irreversible moment?

Later in the month of the accident, one of the priest faculty spoke to us about the dangers of drinking too much. He spoke with a real fatherly firmness, and I remember vividly him saying: "You might think, I'm just having a few drinks, it's ok, I can drive, it's no big deal, but then slowly saying...it is a big deal, it is a big deal."

One can imagine that if some authority figure, or a good friend, had tried to draw a boundary for these seminarians sooner, warned them about how they were losing their way, or reminded them to pray and do their schoolwork and that Christ was calling them to a wonderful, important vocation. They might have rolled their eyes and made a crack, but frankly, in hindsight, wouldn't it have been worth it if someone had used some tough love, some fraternal correction, even loudly saying, "that's not ok"?

That's what God is telling us in today's readings and not just about substance abuse, but anything that keeps us from bearing fruit, fulfilling the reason for our existence. In our second reading St. Paul talks about events in the Old Testament being recorded as a warning to us, to help us repent. The Lord makes similar points in today's Gospel, whether our lives end due to natural disasters, tragedy, or even murder He says twice: ***"Unless you repent, you will all perish as they did."***

Let's make the most of this Lent, **join us and Fr. Knotek for the Lenten Mission on the next two Monday evenings!**

God bless,
Fr. Mike

"BUT I TELL YOU, IF YOU DO NOT REPENT, YOU WILL ALL PERISH AS THEY DID!" - LK 13:3