

## **Reaching for the Son (Sun)**

St. Augustine wisely said; "Our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you." When thinking about this we know all of us search for the support, strength, and love throughout our lives which we as disciples find in Jesus. Even the other parts of creation seem to grow and aim toward the Creator.

The reality of this is demonstrated around our own church property. In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the trees which stand directly in front of the church. On either side of the top steps leading to the front doors stand trees which over time have grown and now lean forward away from the building. People familiar with trees and landscapes tell me they bend searching for the sun which, unfortunately is blocked by the church right behind them.

The lack of direct sun on them and their directional leaning has created several concerns. First, they are not thriving as they should and many of the rear branches have not grown and have fallen away. Secondly, as they lean away from the church façade their roots have cracked and broken the sidewalks on both sides in front of them. Lastly, and the most concerning is the gas service which runs from the street directly up toward the church under the sidewalk, and next to these trees making it probable that the roots are wrapped around the gas pipes under the ground. The stress on the gas lines could eventually cause a leak or a break. An event like this would require all the sidewalks in the area to be ripped up to make repairs. The risk of a gas leak has its obvious safety concerns as well.

It is with these things in mind and recommendations from the gas company as well as others, to proceed to make plans to remove the trees which are currently only inches from the front face of the church. Thankfully, we have two beautiful blossom trees on the sidewalk in front of the church which offer some natural appeal. We also have the blue spruce tree which is growing perfectly straight on the right side of the steps closer to the sidewalk. Early archive photos of the church after Monsignor Dalton built it shows the façade without the trees and reveal how beautiful the church is in its design and majestic position on the property.

Our hope is once these trees are removed, we can use these two side areas next to the top steps for benches and perhaps statues for a devotional garden. Of course, I am open to any suggestions you might have. Feel free to call me if you'd like to discuss your thoughts or ideas.

Peace,

**Fr. Robert**