

# Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

October 18, 2020

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Latest Information on our Parish Masses:** We continue for the present time with a Sunday outdoor Mass at 9:30 a.m. in the school parking lot. The daily Masses---Monday through Saturday---inside the church will be at 8:00 a.m. If anyone would like to make confession, I'll be available before the Sunday Mass. Please do let your families and friends know of our schedule. My heartfelt thanks are due to Richard John, Dave Gemignani, Sharon Soares, Phillip McCarthy--- for all their help in setting up the Sunday and daily Masses and carefully putting things away after.

**Pandemic Precautions:** In light of the virus situation---and in some states these numbers are increasing---let's take utmost precaution about keeping safe distances, wearing masks, washing hands often, using hand sanitizers, and avoiding crowded places where distancing may not be easy. We need to protect ourselves, but we also have to be equally keen on protecting others. Let's, these days of the pandemic, take good care of our physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Let's not forget that even as we isolate ourselves wherever and whenever necessary, we are deeply connected with God, family, and the world.

**Elections in America:** DO NOT FORGET TO VOTE! Vote early! Vote in person or through ballot. This is a very important part of being Christian and citizen. The Bishops of the United States have guidelines for Catholics about being good citizens in our daily lives, including the times of elections, through a well-balanced document titled "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." We need to make well-discerned, not emotional, choices about whom to elect at our local and national levels. The Bishops encourage us to apply Catholic social teaching to major issues, which they identify as: 1. Human Life. 2. Promoting Peace. 3. Marriage & Family Life. 4. Religious Freedom. 5. Health Care. 6. Migration. 7. Catholic Education. 8. Promoting Justice and Countering Violence. 9. Combatting Unjust Discrimination. 10. Care for our Common Home. 11. Communications, Media, and Culture. 12. Global Solidarity. We have to look at all these major issues, not single issues but an overall look at all issues, and search and discern and pray before we select leaders.

**First Communion Mass Last Sunday:** I gave First Holy Communion to four of our Faith Formation children last Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Mass. In view of the hot sun at that time of later morning, we'll be having the next batch of First Communion and Confirmation events at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. Let's keep these children and young people in our prayers.

**Upgrading and Cleaning:** We have been busy doing the clean-up of the church, especially in the sacristy and grotto areas, and upgrading with lights and equipment in the church and the Rectory which, as you know, houses the parish offices. You may have noticed a new iron fence installed at a cost of \$4,000 on top of the slanted wall in front of Cantwell Hall with the purpose of protecting our property. There are many volunteers who assist in many ways. I want to thank them all, especially Emmanuel Micallef, who has been so generous with his time and talents.

**“Fratelli Tutti”**: This is Pope Francis’ latest encyclical. It means “Brothers All”. The subtitle is “On Fraternity and Social Friendship.” Author Isabella Piro summarizes the encyclical as follows: “Fraternity and social friendship are the ways the Pontiff indicates to build a better, more just and peaceful world, with the contribution of all: people and institutions. With an emphatic confirmation of a ‘no’ to war and to globalized indifference.

“What are the great ideals but also the tangible ways to advance for those who wish to build a more just and fraternal world in their ordinary relationships, in social life, politics and institutions?”

“This is mainly the question that Fratelli Tutti is intended to answer: the Pope describes it as a “Social Encyclical” (6) which borrows the title of the “Admonitions” of Saint Francis of Assisi, who used these words to “address his brothers and sisters and proposed to them a way of life marked by the flavor of the Gospel” (Par 1). The Encyclical aims to promote a universal aspiration toward fraternity and social friendship. In the background of the Encyclical is the Covid-19 pandemic which, Francis reveals, “unexpectedly erupted” as he “was writing this letter”. But the global health emergency has helped demonstrate that “no one can face life in isolation” and that the time has truly come to “dream, then, as a single human family” in which we are “brothers and sisters all” (Par 8).”

**Wishing you good health and peace:** As we continue to carefully navigate the pandemic, I wish each one of you good health and peace and all God’s choicest blessings. Let’s keep each other in our hearts and prayers.

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota