

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

November 1, 2020

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

All Saints: November 1: We begin this emotion-laden month with the solemnity of All Saints (All Hallows). Having observed the cultural celebration of the Eve of Hallows as Halloween, here we are celebrating the holy feast of all saints, canonized and not canonized, known and unknown. Originally the feast began when there were so many martyrs that there was a felt need to honor them. It then became a way of honoring all saints, all holy men and women, who have reached the beatific vision of God and are now safe in the very heart of God, even if they are not officially declared as saints by the Church. I would like to think that some or many of our own family members have been privileged to become saints and have attained the life of perfection in heaven; that they have joined Mary, our blessed mother, the angels, and saints; that they are beholding the face of God for eternity with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. What a blessed state! What a glorious life of fulfillment! This feast invites us to thank God for all the marvelous deeds God in Jesus has done in the lives of all these saints. We feel a deep sense of gratitude and joy. This feast also reminds us that we are all destined to be saints. We are all called to holiness. "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect," is the challenge. Be holy. Do holy. It is not easy, though. We are pulled and pushed by external and internal forces and allurements. We are tempted and dazzled by all sorts of things in the world. To seek holiness in the midst of bewildering things and choices is not at all easy. That's why Jesus walks with us and gives us his Spirit to lead and guide us so that we may keep running the race, knowing that in all our endeavors, struggles, and failures, we are graced and strengthened on this pilgrimage of life.

All Souls: November 2. We commemorate all those who have been called to God. We specially think of those in our own families who have gone before us. We hold their memory sacred. We loved them in life, we continue to love them in death. Life is changed, not ended. Love is stronger than death. We bring our love, faith, and prayers to support them on their journey of purification and attainment of perfection with God. It has always been a tradition in the Catholic faith to visit graves on this day. So let's make time for that. As we stand at their graves, perhaps with tears and a deep sense of grief, let us know that God will wipe away all tears and grant them eternal peace and fulfillment. It is also an occasion for us "in this valley of tears" to think of life and death. Awareness of death can make life more precious and beautiful. Against the background of death, life takes on great urgency and acute significance. Because of death, we have to live better lives. Because of death, we have to become the people God wants us to be in this life. Because of death, we need to become more authentic disciples and apostles of Jesus. Because of death, love becomes not only necessary but also urgent. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace! Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal: Our goal for 2020 is \$48,719. So far, you have donated \$25,052. We still have to make \$23,667 to reach the goal. A few of you have given generously. I see two people have donated \$5,000 each. One has given \$2,500. I'm grateful. Please donate whatever you can to assist the Archdiocese in its mission. If everyone could donate, we shall make the goal quickly. If it is possible for some of you to give 1% of the total amount, which would be about \$500, it would be wonderful. That would be a quicker way for us to reach the goal. As a way of expressing my gratitude, I would like to invite those who have donated 1% to a dinner, when we have reached the goal. There are only two months left to make it. So please do give asap.

Elections: The Bishops of the United States have guidelines for Catholics, especially in the election cycles, through a well-balanced document titled “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship.” If you would like to read it in detail, just google it. The Bishops encourage us to apply Catholic social teaching to major issues we face in our nation and the world. They list these major issues 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. Combating Unjust Discrimination. 10. Care for our Common Home. 11. Communications, Media, and Culture. 12. Global Solidarity. We need to look at all these major issues in totality, not just any single issue, and search and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit before we elect our leaders.

Confirmation Last Sunday: I conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 10 of our young men and women last Sunday. The Spirit is upon these women and men. It is up to them to respond to the call to love and serve God and others. Let’s keep them and their families in our prayers.

Mass Schedule: Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m. in school parking lot. Up to 200 people are allowed. Daily Mass for up to 100 people at 8:00 a.m. in the Church. Social distancing to be followed and facial coverings are to be used. If the weather is cool, please remember to wear warm clothes. Thank you, volunteers, for the wonderful help with the set-up and take-down.

Stay well, stay healthy, stay happy! God is guiding every step of our way!

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota