

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

November 8, 2020

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Month of Remembrance of Dear Departed: When November comes, we turn our attention in a special way to those who have gone before us. We loved them in life, we love them in death, and we'll love them into eternal life. As you know, life is not ended in death but only changed. Even as the seed has to die in order to bring forth new life, all our lives when they end in death come back to life because we are destined for eternity. We are mortal only in the sense of our life on earth, but we are immortal in the sense of our life with God. It is our belief that we the "Church Militant" (those of us in this world promoting good and fighting evil) can really help the "Church Suffering" (those going through a process of purification after death) through our love and prayers. When they become the "Church Triumphant," (inheriting the eternal life with God in heaven) they who will be close to God can intercede for us who are in "this valley of tears." In other words, all these traditional theological terms express a simple truth: that life continues after death, love is everlasting because God is love. Our human love is purified and perfected by God's love because all our love has God's love as its origin and destination. This month of November, as we specially remember the dear departed, as we pray for them in a very special, even emotional, way, as we visit their graves and place flowers over them, let our hearts keep chanting this simple prayer: "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."

Election Results: As I write this piece the day after the elections, with no clear winner in sight, we keep our nation in our prayers. Let there be peace and patience on all sides. After all the votes are counted, when the presidential winner emerges, our congratulations and prayers are due to him. To the one who loses, our prayers are with him as well. Now the healing has to begin in the divided country. There are so many other winners and losers in the House, Senate, and the State elections. May they all be blessed with wisdom and understanding to be able to accept victory with humility and loss with a sense of equanimity. Life goes on. As the nation moves on, we wish everyone God's abundant blessings. May America the Beautiful shine forth from sea to sea and be a light to the nations all over the world through its compassion and service, its wisdom and truth.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal: One-Percent Circle: 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 the One-Percent Circle (those who have donated 1%) to a dinner, when we have reached the goal. There are only two months left in 2020 to make it. So please do give as soon as possible.

First Holy Communion Batch II: This Sunday, at the 9:30 a.m. Mass, there will be four of our Faith Formation children---Jethro Durman, Andrea Rosales, Darey Urrieta, and Yareli Urrieta---making their First Holy Communion. This is a grace and blessing that will be remembered for a lifetime by these children. Let's prayerfully keep them and their families in our hearts and minds.

A Story to Ponder: Eat Your Own Fruit: A disciple once complained: "You tell us stories, but you never reveal their meaning to us." Said the Master: "How would you like it if someone offered you fruit, but masticated it before giving it to you?" (ADM, The Song of the Bird)

Looking Ahead: Sunday November 29 is First Sunday of Advent. The Sunday before that (November 22) is the Feast of Christ the King and the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

A Quotable Quote: “You can’t start the next chapter of your life if you keep re-reading the last one.”

Joke: Dear Belinda, I have been unable to sleep since I broke off our engagement. Won’t you forgive and forget? Your absence is breaking my heart. I was a fool --- nobody can take your place. I love you. All my love, Jack. P.S. Congratulations on winning this week's lottery.

Wishing you all good health, peace of mind, freedom from anxieties, and all other blessings only God can give!

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota