

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

January 17, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Ordinary Time of the Liturgical Year: As you know, the Christmas season was over on January 10th when we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord. Now we are in the “Ordinary Time” of the liturgical year. This means there are no significant liturgical celebrations during this time, except, of course, the Sunday liturgies. Though we call this “ordinary time,” we know that God’s love and grace are not to be trifled as ordinary. God’s everyday blessings are extraordinary. They accompany us all through our lives and shine through all our days, no matter what the liturgical seasons are. Someone has said: “Once in a while, right in the middle of an ordinary life, love gives us a fairy tale.” Someone else has said: “I refuse to be ordinary.” Also we hear that “great people are just ordinary people but with great desire.” Some saints have reminded us that we need to do ordinary things in an extraordinary way. These things may well apply to the ordinary time of the liturgical year. God can touch us anytime. He always delights in us. He is waiting for us to love and give of ourselves. So let the ordinary time be an extraordinary time because of that little “extra” we can add to the ordinary time and to our ordinary lives and the ordinary routines.

Lent is on the Horizon---Plan Ahead?: The short Ordinary Time comes to an end as we begin Lent on Ash Wednesday on February 17th. As we will embrace Lent in the next few weeks, we could start planning on what we might do differently in Lent. With daily Masses still not certain on account of Covid, we could start thinking about things along the lines of faith, love, and service. Conversion, repentance, new ways of thinking and living are all important in Lent. No doubt it would involve giving up certain things and even going through inconvenience and sacrifice --- all part of the spirit of Lent. It would be a good idea to start planning already now on what we might do extra or different in Lent.

Calendars have arrived: I’m glad they are here and ready to be distributed. Enjoy! Apologies for the delay. Calendars, as you know, are a visual representation of time. Calendars are filled with days and weeks and months, which are in turn filled with hours and minutes and seconds. We put our schedules and events, our birthdays and anniversaries, on calendars. Let the new year 2021 be filled with blessings of love and health for each one of us at St. Elizabeth parish.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) 2020 and 2021: For 2020, we could not reach our goal of \$48,719. We still needed to raise \$16,038. Covid came in the way. However, since the Archdiocese needs the AAA contributions from all parishes in order for them to do God’s work effectively, I sent in the amount of \$16,038 to the Archdiocese from our other sources. Thank you for your generous donations in last year. For this year, 2021, let’s make a new, concerted effort to achieve the goal. I’m assuming that our AAA 2021 amount might be about \$50,000. So, I’d like to request you to start donating generously. I’ll also be writing a letter to each parishioner. If it’s possible for you to give 1% of the total amount of \$50,000 which would be \$500.00, please do donate it. It would be much appreciated. Some may be able to give more than 1% as some of you did last year. For others, whatever you are able to give generously, please do send it in to the parish. If we could complete this by the end of April, we would not need to talk about it for the rest of the year.

A Story to Ponder: Dandelions: A man who took great pride in his lawn found himself with a large crop of dandelions. He tried every method he knew to destroy them. Still they plagued him. Finally he wrote the Department of Agriculture. He enumerated all the things he had tried and closed his letter with the question: “What shall I do now?” In due course the reply came: “We suggest you learn to love them.” (ADM)

Religious Humor: 1. Saint Pope John XXIII: Visiting a hospital Pope John XXIII asked a boy what he wanted to be when he grew up. The boy said either a policeman or a pope. "I would go in for the police if I were you," the Holy Father said. "Anyone can become a pope, look at me!"
2. Without God: A Weekly Reminder: Without God, our week would be: Sinday, Mournday, Tearsday, Wasteday, Thirstday, Fightday & Shatterday. Remember seven days without God makes one weak!!

A Quotable Quote: "There is no saint without a past, no sinner without a future"---Augustine of Hippo.
Thinking of you joyfully and gratefully and sending you my wishes and God's blessings for health and happiness. Be well! Be swell!

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota