

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

March 14, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) 2021: Week Four: The goal is \$40,000. So far we have collected \$11,974. We are starting the fourth and final week of our month-long concerted campaign for AAA. If we make our goal within a month, we will not breathe another word on AAA for the rest of the year. Last Sunday at 10.00 a.m. Mass, Adolfo and Tessie Alano spoke eloquently about their connection to our parish and the Archdiocese and for the need to donate to AAA. Our parish and the Archdiocese are intimately linked in mission and ministry. Please donate early. One-time donation, pledge over ten months, online donation are different ways in which you can give to AAA. Also please keep in mind the One Percent Circle which is a way of donating one percent of \$40,000, which is \$400.00. Please give out of the abundance of your hearts in gratitude for all the blessings we have received and as a way of standing with the Archdiocese that serves us well through their many services. Please see the names of AAA donors in the bulletin. Thank you!

Expanding the Meaning of Fasting in Lent: Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them. Fast from fear of illness; Feast on the healing power of God. Fast from words that pollute; Feast on speech that purifies. Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude. Fast from anger; Feast on patience. Fast from pessimism; Feast on hope. Fast from negatives; Feast on encouragement. Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness. Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion. Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth. Fast from gossip; Feast on purposeful silence. Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that sustains. Fast from anxiety; Feast on faith. - Author Unknown

Word of God: The gospel from John this Sunday contains one of the most consoling passages in the whole Bible. This could indeed be the summary of the whole Bible or our Christian life. It is this: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." This passage is worth memorizing. Jesus comes into the world because God loves the whole world. Does God really love the world? Yes, yes, yes. That's why we have to love the world too. If we love the world as Jesus loves it, then we will go about making this world a better place. God is not there to condemn the world, but to love it and save it. That's why Jesus is willing to die for us. How shall we turn away from evil, greed, sin, and selfishness and turn toward the forces of love and life, goodness and kindness? Lent is a good time to think about such things.

Pilgrimage to Jordan & the Holy Land: October 05 - 17, 2022: I'll be spiritual director of this pilgrimage. If you are interested in joining, you are most welcome. Check out www.pilgrimages/frputhota. For a brochure, please call the parish office. You may also call 206 Tours (pilgrimage company) at 800-206-8687.

A Story to Ponder: Buddha seemed quite unruffled by the insults hurled at him by a visitor. When his disciples later asked him what the secret of his serenity was, he said: "Imagine what would happen if someone placed an offering before you and you did not pick it up. Or someone sent you a letter that you refused to open; you would be unaffected by its contents, would you not? Do this each time you are abused and you will not lose your serenity."

Quotable Quote: "Normality is a paved road: it's comfortable to walk but no flowers grow."--Vincent van Gogh

St. Elizabeth Property and Liability Insurance---FYI: We received last week an invoice for \$72,849 to be paid for this item, and I have sent in the check. This is the annual liability insurance we have to pay for our church building, the rectory, school, and convent. Sometimes you may wonder where your donations go. It's good for you to know that there are many expenses and bills to pay to keep a parish running. As you know, to keep doing God's work in our parish and to continue to serve our parishioners and the neighborhoods, we need the financial resources. Please do keep donating to the parish generously. Your kind generosity is much appreciated.

Pope John the 23rd Jokes: 1. Not long after he was elected pope, Pope John (now a saint) was walking in the streets of Rome. A woman passed him and said to her friend, "My God, he's so fat!" Overhearing what she said, he turned around and replied, "Madame, I trust you understand that the papal conclave is not exactly a beauty contest." 2. When he went to visit a friend at the nearby Hospital of the Holy Spirit in the evening, the nun answering the door said: "Holy Father, I'm the mother superior of the Holy Spirit." He replied: "Lucky you! What a job! I'm just the 'servant of the servants of God.'"

Be well! Stay healthy! May the journey of Lent bring us purified and renewed to the mysteries of the Holy Week!

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota