

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

May 2, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Eastering Jesus: The British Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins in his poem "The Wreck of the Deutschland" says: "Let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us, be a crimson-crested east." Hopkins is convinced that the meaning of Easter is that the risen Christ keeps doing his "eastering" in our lives. Easter, therefore, can be viewed as a verb rather than a noun. Easter is not so much a one-day event but a continuous process of what the risen Christ can do in our lives. He can give us healing and forgiving love. Again and again, when he enters the locked doors, he does not criticize or reprove the disciples for having abandoned or denied or betrayed him, but all he offers is: "Peace be with you." That is how Jesus easters in us. His Easter presence is intimate and transformative. He uplifts and gives hope. We can be turned away from fear to courage; from sinfulness to grace; from anxiety to peace. Jesus wants to easter in us this Easter season. Shall we have the love and faith to let him easter in us?

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA): Our goal is \$40K. To be exact, it is: \$39,425. You have so far donated \$36,734. We need only \$2,691 to reach the goal. I'm amazed by your generosity. We need to applaud ourselves for such generous response. I want to thank all those who have donated in support of the mission and ministry of the Archdiocese, of which our parish is an inseparable part. Thank you also to the "One Percent or More" donors. Some of you, however, may not have had the time so far to consider and donate. Please do give as early as possible to make it a success.

500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines, A Parish Celebration: It's on Sunday May 16 at the 11:30 a.m. Mass with the Archbishop presiding. The preparations are on. I thank the steering committee for all the arrangements being made. Please see the beautiful banner donated by Hermie de los Reyes in the front of the church. I also thank those who are donating generously to make this event beautiful, prayerful, and memorable. Let's prayerfully be united in faith and solidarity to celebrate this event. I thank the steering committee (Hermie de los Reyes, Elvie Medina, Sr. Olga Cristobal and others) for all the arrangements they are making.

Daily Mass Change of Schedule June 1 Onwards: Daily Mass from June 1 onwards will be at 8:30 a.m. instead of 8:00 a.m. It's because of the Morning Prayer (Divine Office) that will start at 8:10 a.m. followed by Mass at 8:30.

Sunday Mass Schedule Change May 16 Onwards: Starting on Sunday May 16, instead of 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, we will have 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. As you know, 9:30 a.m. was the original timing of a Mass in our parish. When the time comes, when conditions are good, we shall add one or two Masses, as necessary, to our weekend Mass schedule. Right now, up to 250 people are allowed to attend an indoor Mass in our parish, which would be about 50% capacity.

50 Plus Club: I attended this group's meeting and lunch on Thursday April 22 in Cantwell Hall. It was the first social event in the hall since the pandemic hit. I was impressed with the spirit of community, hospitality, and arrangements. Congrats to Elsa Reginato, Emma Magarrell, and other officials of this group. About 35 people attended. It was wonderful to see people reconnecting with each other and celebrating friendships. As you know, our liturgical and spiritual events are very important in a parish life. Also important are our social events. So let's begin to have our social events, of course, cautiously but hopefully, with safety protocols in place, as we care for each other's health and happiness.

Inspiration: You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just read this straight through, and you'll get the point. 1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world. 2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners. 3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America. 4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize. 5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress. 6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners. How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one: 1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school. 2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time. 3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile. 4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special. 5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with. Easier?

The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care.

Jokes: 1. A six-year-old boy was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service: "And forgive us our trash passes as we forgive those who pass trash against us." 2. A Faith Formation teacher asked her class: "Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?" A small girl replied: "Aren't those the sins we should have committed, but didn't?"

Hope you are enjoying the Easter Season! May the Risen Christ walk and talk with you this season!

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota