

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

May 23, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Parish Celebration of 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines: Our happy celebration of this event went well last Sunday at the 11:30 a.m. Mass presided over by the Archbishop. I would like to thank the steering committee for making meticulous plans for the liturgy and lunch. The Mass was attended by over 215 people. Many have expressed their appreciation for the "Praise and Glorify" choir which sang the hymns in Tagalog. Hermie de los Reys and I spoke words of gratitude at the end of the Mass, expressing sentiments about our faith and service in the life of the parish. I heard comments that the food served in lunch boxes was delicious. Many generous donors gave financial support to make this celebration possible. Our sacristans and those who worked on church environment and cleanliness did an excellent job. Thank you to all those who worked, volunteered, organized, and participated in this event.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal: Our goal was to reach \$39,425. We have reached the goal. Congratulations and thanks to all those who donated! We reached this goal in 11 weeks. I'm amazed and edified by your participation and generosity. This is a clear sign that our parish can achieve the goals we set for ourselves and that we can work together to make a success of the projects we undertake. Whatever excess money we raise will be returned to us from the Archdiocese. In reaching this goal, we are actually declaring our support for the mission and ministries of the Archdiocese so that God's work may continue.

Pentecost: As you know, Pentecost is the Birthday of the Church. The disciples of Jesus were hiding, afraid that they might also be killed by the authorities. But Jesus had assured them that the Advocate, the Comforter, will come and remind them of everything Jesus had said. In other words, the Holy Spirit would come to give life, energy, and dynamism to the words and memory of Jesus. Everything changed for those disciples that day. The Holy Spirit came down in a dramatic way. The wind and the fire swept the fears away and burned away their powerlessness. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke and bore witness to the life of Jesus, his death and resurrection. Everyone heard everyone else in their own language and understood them. The good news became not only accessible but alive and aflame. The disciples of Jesus became fearless preachers and witnesses. A community was born with the memory of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. For over two thousand years this community has been called the Church. We are all members of this body. Jesus is the head. The Holy Spirit is the indwelling grace and power within us calling God Abba Father. If we allow the Holy Spirit to move and guide us, that's when we make the right choices for God, love, family, faith, and the world. Let's just keep two images of the Holy Spirit in mind: Wind & Fire. What might this wind and fire do for us and in the present world?

Prayer to the Holy Spirit: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth. Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Quotes on the Holy Spirit: “It’s not the Holy Spirit and power; it’s the Holy Spirit as power.” “O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams.” --- Saint Augustine. “I myself do nothing. The Holy Spirit accomplishes all through me.” --- William Blake. “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” --- Galatians 5:22. The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord. “Let us be guided by the Holy Spirit. Allow him to speak in our hearts. He will tell us this: God is love.” --- Pope Francis. “I believe in the surprises of the Holy Spirit.” --- Cardinal L. J. Suenens. “The Holy Spirit is your spiritual GPS. He will tell you where you are and where you are going.”

Prayers for Peace in the Holy Land: The latest flareup of violence is one of those going on for centuries in this part of the world where the three Abrahamic religions are practiced. Let’s pray that the Prince of Peace born in this region may restore peace, harmony, and reconciliation.

May, Month of Mary: Memorare: Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Joke: War & Peace: The social studies teacher had just finished a unit on war and peace. “How many of you,” he asked, “would say you're opposed to war?” Not surprisingly, all hands went up. The teacher asked, “Who'll give us the reason for being opposed to war?” A large, bored-looking boy in the back of the room raised his hand. “Johnny?” The teacher said. “I hate war,” Johnny said, “because wars make history, and then some poor, innocent kid has to memorize all about it.”

Your Friend and Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota