

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

August 15, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

August 15th --- Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM: In the Catholic imagination, Mary our Blessed Mother occupies a vitally prominent role. She is the mother of Jesus. She brought the savior and redeemer into the world. Her role, therefore, is extremely significant. In the gospels we see that she was filled with grace, that she said yes to God, that she listened to God's word and observed it, and that she was at the foot of the cross. There was no one closer to the mystery of Jesus than our Blessed Mother. Because of her momentous role in the history of our salvation, because she is the mother of God's own son, she was protected from sin and decay from the moment of conception (when Mary's mother conceived her in her womb) until she breathed her last. The Catholic way of viewing her last moment in this world is that she did not die, but she slept into eternal life by being assumed into heaven. Her soul was never tainted by sin; her body was never stained by decay. She was gloriously assumed into heaven and crowned queen of heaven. She is our tender-hearted mother who always wants us to be happy and love Jesus her son. The same way she is mother to Jesus, she is our mother. What a privilege it is! Let's celebrate the feast of the Assumption of our BVM with great joy, faith, and gratitude. As William Wordsworth says, the BVM is "our tainted nature's solitary boast."

The Angelus Prayer: The Angelus, a prayer with roots back to the 13th century, is a Marian devotion that is traditionally recited three times a day, **usually at 9, noon, and 6.** Each recitation includes three Hail Marys with antiphons and responses in between each.

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary . . .

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done to me according to thy word.

Hail Mary. . .

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary. . .

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Top Ten Reasons to be Catholic: 1. Eucharist. 2. Sacraments. 3. Community. 4. Apostolic Tradition. 5. Mary, our Blessed Mother. 6. Scripture & Tradition. 7. Catholic Social Teaching. 8. Prayer & Devotions. 9. The Saints. 10. Universal Church.

My Ordination Anniversary – August 19: Please see a couple of pictures on the other page from my priestly Ordination on August 19, 1989. I have now been a priest for 32 years, 13 of those as a Jesuit priest. I was not fortunate enough to have my mother alive at my Ordination. Please keep me in your prayers. Service to God and the people of God continues. I'm grateful for all your affection and inspiration, for your support and goodwill. The Opening Prayer in the Roman Missal for the Priestly Ordination Anniversary captures my sentiment accurately: "Holy Father, who, by no merit of my own, chose me for communion with the eternal priesthood of your Christ and for the ministry of your Church, grant that I may be an ardent yet gentle preacher of the Gospel and a faithful steward of your mysteries."

Quotes on Blessed Virgin Mary: May the mother of Jesus and our mother, always smile on your spirit, obtaining for it, from her most holy son, every heavenly blessing."

- *Saint Padre Pio*. "In trial or difficulty I have recourse to Mother Mary, whose glance alone is enough to dissipate every fear." - *Saint Therese of Lisieux*. "If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady, just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit, this prayer has never failed me." - *Blessed Mother Teresa*

Priest Jokes: 1. The church is struck by lightning. The insurance company refuses to pay out for damages incurred, as there is a specific disclaimer clause for "An act of God", which, amongst others, lightning is classified as. The priest goes to every household and asks for a donation to rebuild the church. One Christian farmer protested, "I'm sorry, Pastor, but I can't give money to Somebody who set His own house alight!"

2. Before performing a baptism, the priest approached the young father and said solemnly, "Baptism is a serious step. Are you prepared for it?" "I think so," the man replied. "My wife has made all the appetizers herself and we have a caterer coming in to provide plenty of sandwiches and cakes for all of our guests." "I don't mean that," the priest responded. "I mean, are you properly prepared spiritually?" "Oh, sure," came the reply. "I've got a keg of beer and a case of whiskey."

3. A priest asks Johnny if he's scared of Satan. Little Johnny says "I have nothing to be scared of. You are the one that must be scared; you talk crap about him every Sunday..."

Hope your summer is going well. Let's keep in our hearts all those affected by Covid and the fires raging in many states and countries,

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota