

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

September 26, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Morning Prayer---Liturgy of the Hours: Every day at 8:00 a.m. Please join, if you can.

Baptisms, Confessions, Weddings, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick or Dying, Blessing of Homes & Vehicles: Please call the parish office. Or contact me at weekend or weekday Masses. I promise you that I'll make the process and arrangements as easy and pleasant as possible. I'll cut through the red tape! I'm here to serve. As you know, the Church is called to be a welcoming church, like a mother welcoming her children. Let's model that kind of hospitality and welcome at St. Elizabeth parish.

Gracenter Fundraising Dinner at St. Elizabeth Rectory: You may be aware of the Gracenter, a recovery residence for women run by the Good Shepherd Sisters. To fundraise for their commendable ministry, I'm throwing a dinner in the Rectory for 12 people. The donation requested is \$150.00 per person. If you are happy to be part of this fundraising dinner-event, please would you contact the parish office? Gracenter, as you may know, is celebrating 60th anniversary this year. It was built through the generosity of 11 local labor unions and 52 businesses. The Sisters are also doing an online fundraising. Please visit GSG2021.givesmart.com to donate.

One Art: I have been fascinated and inspired by Elizabeth Bishop's poem "One Art." When you have the time, I recommend you take a look at this beautiful poem which enshrines the theme that "the art of losing is not hard to master." One click on Google will take you to the poem and YouTube will give you videos of interpretation of the poem. If you like the poem, would you let me know so we could quickly chat about it before or after Masses? Maybe, we could every day read a poem. It might do us a lot of good.

Movie Morning: Once a month, we could show a movie in Cantwell Hall, a movie based on some religious theme. Would you be interested in that? If you would, let me or the parish office know. It could be combined with some coffee before or after or during the intermission. This might be easy for those who are retired. Such occasions can also help bring people together and create friendships and build up our parish community. You could also have a little conversation on the movie, if you'd like, but it's not required.

Public Library: I have just obtained membership of the San Francisco public library system through Portola branch. I had membership in the peninsula system before. One of my pleasures is to walk into a public library and browse books and other resources such as the video collections. I enjoy borrowing books, journals, and DVDs of foreign movies. Do you know that you can check out 50 items at a time and keep them for three weeks and renew them for a longer period of time? When you have the time, I'd recommend that you walk into a public library and browse books, magazines and other items. The public library system in the United States, I think, is a treasure.

AAA 1% and More Circle Thank-You Luncheon: November 7 Sunday at Noon at the Basque Cultural Center.

Sr. Olga Cristobal's 50th Anniversary Celebration: As you may know, there will be a celebration of Sr. Olga's Golden Jubilee of her Religious Profession at our parish on Saturday, October 09. Those who would like to volunteer in any way, please do let the parish office know.

Pope Francis Quotes: (continued from last week's bulletin) 6. Money has to serve, not to rule. 7. Hatred is not to be carried in the name of God! War is not to be waged in the name of God! 8. I see clearly that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful ... I see the church as a field hospital after battle. 9. Perhaps you were mad, perhaps plates flew, but please remember this: never let the sun go down without making peace! Never, never, never! 10. Instead of being just a church that welcomes and receives by keeping the doors open, let us try also to be a church that finds new roads...to those who have quit or are indifferent.

A Story to Ponder: Four monks decided to go into silence for a month. They started out well enough, but after the first day one monk said, "I wonder if I locked the door of my cell at the monastery before we set out." Another monk said, "You fool! We decided to keep silence for a month and now you have gone and broken it!" A third monk said, "What about you? You have broken it too!" Said the fourth, "Thank God I'm the only one who hasn't spoken yet!"

Humor: A farmer named Muldoon lived alone in the countryside with a wee dog that he loved and doted on. After many long years of faithful companionship, the dog finally died, so Muldoon went to the parish priest: "Father, my dear old dog is dead. Could you be saying a Mass for him?" Father Patrick replied, "I am so very sorry to hear about your dog's death. But, unfortunately, I can't say Mass for the poor creature..." Muldoon said, "I understand, Father, I do. I guess I'll go to this new denomination down the road; no tellin' what they believe... Do you think \$500 is enough to donate for the service?" Father Patrick: "Now, wait a minute. Why didn't you tell me your wee dog was Catholic?!"

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota