

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

October 3, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Blessing of Animals at St. Elizabeth Church: In keeping with the tradition connected with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, lover of all animals and all creation, the Patron Saint of our own City-by-the-Bay, we shall bless the animals immediately following the 9:30 Mass coming Sunday October 03, in front of the church.

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 04: I had the opportunity to visit the place of this much-loved saint --- Assisi in Italy as recently as three years ago. He came to be known as "il poverello," the poor one. The city of Assisi upon a hill is a magnificent sight from the plains. You can touch the spirit of St. Francis in this town. He died in 1226. After all these centuries, the saint is even more relevant today for the spirit of detachment, world peace, simple living, and loving care for creation. His famous prayer "Lord, make me a channel of your peace" is highly suitable for our world of today.

Knights of Columbus Meeting: After a long hiatus brought on by Covid, Knights of our parish and the auxiliaries met Sunday September 26. I had the chance to speak to them and listen to them. I have assured them that they would receive all the support they need from me. I have thanked them for all their service to our parish and encouraged them to continue their good work now and into the future. We shared a nice meal together after our meeting.

Faith Formation (FF) Classes Started: Last Saturday September 25, our FF classes started. I visited the classes. I thank the teachers for their commendable service. A couple of weeks before, I had had a meeting with the teachers and reviewed their plans for this year's classes and the calendar. On Saturday October 02, I'm hoping to get together with the parents.

Pilgrimage to Jordan and the Holy Land: In 2022, October 05 through 17, I'll be serving as spiritual director for a pilgrimage group. If you are interested in joining, please contact 1-800-206-8687. See more information on the back of this bulletin.

October, Month of the Rosary: October 07 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. It's a revered Catholic tradition to observe the whole month of October as dedicated to the Holy Rosary, a great devotion passed on to us from one generation to another. As you know, being close to Mary brings us closer to Jesus. Through her motherly and tender love for us, she urges us to do whatever Jesus asks us to do. As we pray the repetitive prayers of Our Father and Hail Mary, there is an aura of the sacred created within us and a sense of peace and quiet descends on us. As we focus on the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, we actually meditate on the life of Christ and the connection of our mother Mary to Jesus and to all of us. This month of October, maybe we could make a fresh attempt at praying the Rosary as a family and in our parish groups and organizations. In our Faith Formation too we could introduce the children to this beautiful devotion of praying the Rosary.

Feast of St. Thérèse of Child Jesus on October 01: Some years ago, I had the honor of visiting her town Lisieux in Normandy, France, and celebrating Mass at the Carmelite Cloistered Convent to which she belonged for nine years before she died at age 24 in 1897. Her spiritual journal “Story of a Soul” is a bestseller in religious literature. She is a bright star among the Catholic saints and loved by millions around the world. She is also called the Little Flower. She thought of herself not as one of those great flowers like the rose and lily, but as a little flower in the forest which also catches the eye of God. She felt that though she is little, God loves her with incredible love. Her spirituality may be summed up in what she called the “little way.” It means that she is not capable of doing great and mighty things for God, but she can still as God’s little one, do all the small, daily things with love, dedication, and faith. Maybe we can also think about following the little way of St. Thérèse. Let’s do the daily things with simple hearts and great love. To use the old language, everything we do we can “offer up to God,” knowing that God loves and cares for all the little things we do because they all accumulate to give meaning and purpose to our lives. Let’s keep Jesus’ words: “Unless you become a child, you cannot enter the Kingdom of God.”

Think About It: “The more grain there is on a rice stalk, the lower it bends to the ground; empty of grain, it grows taller and taller.” (Malayan Proverb).

A Five-Year-Old’s Prayer: Dear God, I think about You sometimes even when I'm not praying.

Catholic Jokes about children:

1. After the Faith Formation teacher had read the story of the prodigal son, she asked, “What does it mean to “waste your substance on riotous living?” Seven-year-old Tim spoke up: “It means to spend all your money on bubble gum.”
2. Five-year-old Kate was taken to church for the first time. On the way home, she asked, “If that is God’s house, how come there are cracks in the ceiling?”
3. “Father, is it a sin to pull a cat’s tail off?” asked the little boy at confession. “Indeed, it is, my son,” replied the priest. “What God hath joined together, let no man pull asunder.”

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota