

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

October 10, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Sr. Olga Cristobal's Golden Jubilee: Saturday October 09 at 10:30 a.m. there will be a Thanksgiving Mass to mark the 50th Anniversary of Sr. Olga's Religious Profession. She has been a Religious Sister of the Good Shepherd Sisters for 50 years. She has been a friend to many in our parish and active in the ministries of the Archdiocese, including at the Laguna Honda Hospital where she currently serves as Pastoral Minister. Her service for God's glory and the service of people, especially those who are in need, in different countries, is highly commendable. Please join me in congratulating her and wishing her many more years of service to those in need. Also, warm welcome and wishes to her family, friends, and coworkers, who will be joining this celebration. The Foundress of Sr. Olga's Order, St. Mary Euphrasia, says: "Feel a lovely compassion for persons. Treat all in a large-hearted way...Be humble and gentle, but dignified with prudence and wisdom...Love people, love them very much. Console and strengthen them. By God's grace, make them happy, very happy." Sr. Olga practices these qualities in her service and in the various collaborative relationships with people. Sr. Olga, wishing you many more years of happiness, ministry, good health, joy, and all the blessings of God!

Blessing of Animals Last Sunday: After the 9:30 a.m. Mass last Sunday, to mark the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, I blessed the animals. There were, I think, 14 dogs and 1 cat. One person brought two dogs all the way from Oakland. We'll have this blessing as our annual tradition in the future, around the Feast of St. Francis, which falls on October 04.

Faith Formation Parents Meeting: Tuesday Oct. 05 in Cantwell Hall: I spoke to the parents of our Faith Formation children last Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. It was the second time for me to welcome them and thank them for enrolling their children. I also used the occasion to invite them to join our Masses with their children and be part of our faith family of St. Elizabeth Church. I wish our catechists all the blessings as we have begun a whole new year of sharing faith and helping our children grow in the values of Jesus Christ. You are still welcome to enroll your children or grandchildren in our classes meeting each Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Gracenter Fundraising Dinner in Rectory: To help fundraise for the good work of the Good Shepherd Sisters who run Gracenter, a place for women in recovery, I'm hosting a dinner at St. Elizabeth Rectory. Date of the dinner is not determined yet. Suggested donation is \$150.00 per person. Check payable to St. Elizabeth Church with "Gracenter" on the memo line.

Music at our Weekend Masses: In the near future, we'll be having organ music played by Cyril Deaconoff and the choir at the 9:30 a.m. Mass every other Sunday. We warmly welcome the music ministry back to our liturgical celebrations. I'll have to make plans for another group playing music at the 4:30 p.m. Saturday vigil Mass. If you know of anyone experienced at playing the piano for Masses and if any cantors available, please do get in touch with me.

Word of God: The gospel portrays a haunting story of a man who wants to follow Jesus more closely but is unable to because of his possessions. Then Jesus goes on to give his reflections on how our wealth can prevent us from being the persons God calls us to be. "It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle rather than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God." When we come to rely on our possessions, we might come to have a false sense of security about life; that we can somehow be happy because of things we accumulate; that we do not have to bother with putting our trust in and dependence on God. Jesus gives many teachings about how to approach wealth. Wealth is a servant, a slave, not our master. We need to use everything, as St. Ignatius of Loyola would say, in so far as they help us to fulfill the purpose God has for each one of us. If things prevent us from being truly happy and internally free, then they are hindrances. Life is full of choices; the ones that may be helpful for someone may not be meant for us. We have to honestly before God choose those that will bring peace and happiness to our minds and hearts.

Multi-Faith Climate Meeting Called by the Holy Father: Pope Francis and other religious leaders made a joint appeal at the Vatican on Monday October 04, on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, for next month's U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP26) to be held at Glasgow, Scotland, to offer concrete solutions to save the planet from "an unprecedented ecological crisis". The "Faith and Science: Towards COP26" meeting brought together Christian leaders including Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, as well as representatives of Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism and Jainism. "COP26 in Glasgow represents an urgent summons to provide effective responses to the unprecedented ecological crisis and the crisis of values that we are presently experiencing, and in this way to offer concrete hope to future generations," the pope said. "Every year, the United Nations holds a global climate change conference known as a COP which stands for "Conference of the Parties." This year marks the 26th anniversary, giving it the name COP26 with the UK as its president, to be held in Glasgow between Oct. 31 and Nov. 12.

Catholic Joke: The pastor confronted his tipsy church member: "Joe, whiskey is your worst enemy." "But didn't you tell us last Sunday to love our enemies?" Joe replied. "Sure," the pastor answered, "but I didn't say anything about swallowing them."

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota