

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

October 17, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Sr. Olga Cristobal's Golden Jubilee: This event of Sr. Olga's went well last Saturday. Congratulations to her and prayerful wishes. Sr. Olga has told me to thank all those who helped and volunteered in making this event beautiful and memorable. I would like to extend my deep sense of gratitude as well. I feel more confident now to come to you for any help and service to make the events and celebrations in our parish filled with a sense of community and joy.

Word of God: In the Gospel this Sunday, James and John are jockeying for power and position, but Jesus says, "Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.

For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." This is the paradox of Christian life. We are to be the servants if we have to be the first. Jesus himself became one among us, serving us and washing our feet. The followers of Jesus are called to be like him, humble and self-effacing, ready to give and share, to be the last and the servant of all, willing to sacrifice everything. Let's always keep in mind that the one whom we follow gave his life away so that we could have life and abundant life.

Mass Intentions – last minute requests: Please do go through the parish office for all Mass intentions. Sometimes, I get requests at the last minute for intentions just before Masses. As an exception, I'd accept, on emergency basis, those intentions for someone who may have just passed away from your family. However, please keep in mind that in fairness and justice to people who have already requested Mass intentions, we have to be careful and respectful, and avoid, as far as possible, adding more intentions to Masses. I hope you'd understand this simple principle followed in all parishes. Generally, parishes are very particular about not accepting last minute requests for Mass intentions, only out of respect for those who have requested intentions already and are placed on the weekly Mass calendar. However, in case of emergency, please do approach me. Let's see how we can help. I'd like to be flexible while being at the same time respectful of requests made through the office.

AAA 1% and More Circle Thank-You Luncheon: November 7 Sunday at Noon at the Basque Cultural Center. I have sent you letters. Please do RSVP as early as possible, with your choice of food. This luncheon is to thank you for your kind generosity in supporting the Archdiocesan ministries through the AAA.

Holy Land Pilgrimage: A year from now, October 5 through 17, 2022, I'll be leading a group of pilgrims to Jordan and the Holy Land. If you are interested, please see the information on the back page of the bulletin.

October, month of the Rosary: Let's seek our Blessed Mother's intercession and love and affection as we pray the Rosary, especially this month of October.

Pope Opens Two-Year Consultation on Catholic Church: Pope Francis last Sunday on October 10 launched a two-year worldwide consultative process that could change the way the Roman Catholic Church makes decisions and leave its mark long after his pontificate is over. The initiative is called "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." Some people see this as an opportunity to change the Church's power dynamics and give a greater voice to lay Catholics, including women, and people on the margins of society. At a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, Francis said Catholics should have an open mind about the process. "Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey? Or are we fearful of the unknown, preferring to take refuge in the usual excuses: 'It's useless' or 'We've always done it this way'?" Francis said in his homily.

In the first stage, Catholics in parishes and dioceses around the world will discuss issues such as whether the Church listens enough to young people, women, minorities, and those on the margins of society. They also will discuss how to identify stereotypes and prejudices in their local communities and what type of Church they think God wants in today's world. Following discussions at national and continental levels, bishops will meet at the Vatican for a month in 2023. They will prepare a document and then the pope will write an Apostolic Exhortation giving his views, suggestions and perhaps instructions on various issues. "Let us not soundproof our hearts; let us not remain barricaded in our certainties. Let us listen to one another," the pope said at the Mass attended by about 3,000 people.

Pope Francis has said that while there should be more consultation and mutual listening among the various parts of the Church, only popes can take the ultimate decisions on doctrinal matters. In his homily on Sunday, he said synodality, which comes from the Greek and means roughly walking together on a common path, could not become "a Church convention, a study group, a political congress or a parliament, but rather a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Holy Spirit." (Source: Reuters)

Epitaph Humor: 1. In a Thurmont, Maryland, cemetery: "Here lies an Atheist / All dressed up and no place to go." 2. In a cemetery in England: "Remember man, as you walk by, / As you are now, so once was I. / As I am now, you soon will be. / Prepare yourself and follow me." To which someone replied by writing on the tombstone: "To follow you I'll not consent / Until I know which way you went."

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota