

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

October 24, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Synod of Bishops 2021-2023: As you may be aware, Pope Francis inaugurated two weeks ago a two-year process of encounter and consultation called "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission." I put a note about in last week's bulletin. I shall keep sharing more in the coming weeks and months. You might also want to google this topic and do your own research about this important development in the Church all around the world. When the materials are available, I will share them with you.

Please Occupy Front Pews: A request: when you come into church for weekend Masses, please do occupy the pews in the front half of the church. That would help the latecomers to sit in the back conveniently. All this is to safeguard everyone's safety and health. When ushers lead you to the front pews, please do not resist or oppose them. They are doing their volunteer work with generosity, and they are actually following my recommendations in an effort to avoid crowding in the back pews. Please let's all collaborate and be flexible in order to promote the common good and public health. If you have any questions about this, please would you talk to me before or after Masses. As it stands now, we have about 75 people attending the Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass and about 175 people at the Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass. Please keep in mind our church can seat 600 people and it is highly recommended that we try to distribute the numbers as widely as possible inside the church.

Mission Statement of our Parish: Please see our parish Mission Statement on the front page of the bulletin permanently. It is the first paragraph of the Preface of the Vatican II "Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes). It is a towering statement about what we as people of God are called to be and do. When there is an opportunity, we could reflect on this statement in our organizations or as part of a retreat. The meaning of this statement is that we are in the world, not outside the world. Therefore what happens in the world touches the followers of Christ and calls for our participation and engagement in a continuous way. Here it is:

"The joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or in any way afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ as well. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts. For theirs is a community of people united in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit in their pilgrimage towards the Kingdom of their Father, bearers of a message of salvation for all of humanity. That is why they cherish a conviction of deep solidarity with the human race and its history."

Word of God: This Sunday we read a hauntingly beautiful story of Jesus healing a blind man. Desperate, he cries out: "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me." People try to silence him, but he shouts all the more. Such is his need. It's his only chance to get what he wants from Jesus. He prays with faith and sense of urgency and intensity and persistence. Jesus hears him and heals him. As Jesus calls him, it is said: "He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus." When we go to Jesus, we have to throw away a whole lot of things we do not need anymore. Our need, too, is like the blind man's: "Master, I want to see." Is it possible that we have eyes but do not see. We look, but do not see into the heart of people, life, and situations. We need more sight. The blind man "immediately received his sight and followed him on the way." When we can "see" better, we shall follow Jesus and be on the way. Being on the way with Jesus is all about what we are called to do as Christians. This gospel story is full of meaning for each of us, our families, and communities. It gives us insight about prayer, faith, perseverance, seeing, throwing away the baggage, following Jesus, and becoming his disciples.

Holy Land Pilgrimage: Please see information for a pilgrimage on the last page of this bulletin.

Stories to Ponder: 1. An efficiency expert was making his report to Henry Ford. "As you well see, sir, the report is highly favorable, except for that man down the hall. Every time I pass by, he's sitting with his feet on his desk. He's wasting your money. Said Ford. "That man once had an idea that earned us a fortune. At the time I believe his feet were exactly where they are now." 2. There was an exhausted woodcutter who kept wasting time and energy chopping wood with a blunt axe because he did not have the time, he said, to stop and sharpen the blade. (ADM)

Catholic Jokes: 1. While Father Giles was preaching his sermon, a woman in the congregation began to cough loudly and often. The priest said to a man who was sitting up front, "Give that lady a glass of water!" Then Father Giles returned to his sermon, but lost his train of thought. "Now, what was I saying?" he murmured. The man replied, "Give that lady a glass of water." 2. A tailor confessed that he had stolen a roll of cloth from a van. "I hope you won't make a habit of it, said the priest. "Certainly not," said the tailor. "I was going to make two suits from it."

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota