

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

October 31, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

All Saints on Monday November 01: --NOT a Holy Day of Obligation: Mass at 8:30 a.m. as usual: November dawns with this feast of all saints. We have the celebration of saints throughout the liturgical calendar. These are canonized saints of the Church. They lived lives of heroic virtue and holiness. After a process of analysis and careful study, the Church determined, in many cases centuries after the death of these men and women, that they were worthy to join the long list of saints. However, there are millions and millions more who have reached the beatific vision: "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14). These people have joined the ranks of saints in heaven, even though we don't recognize them formally and individually on the liturgical calendar. Today is the day to celebrate them all. In our own lifetime, we have seen people who stood out for their selflessness and saintliness. These may include our own parents, other family members, and friends. We celebrate them all today with joy and gratitude. What can we take away from this feast? That we are all called to be holy; that each one of us is called to be a saint. Most saints looked at the saints before them and said, if they could do it, why not I? That is the same question we need to ask. If all those saints could give of themselves to God and others, why can't I? If those saints, men and women, married and single, could respond to the call of Christ in their times and circumstances, why not we in our times and situations?

All Souls on Tuesday November 02: Mass as usual at 8:30 a.m.: The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed: When November comes, we turn our attention in a special way to those who have gone before us. We loved them in life, we love them in death, and we'll love them into eternal life. As you know, life is not ended in death but only changed. Even as the seed has to die in order to bring forth new life, all our lives when they end in death come back into life because we are destined for eternity. We are mortal in the sense of our life on earth, but we are immortal in the sense of our life with God. It is our belief that we the "Church Militant" can really help the "Church Suffering" through our love and prayers. When they become the "Church Triumphant," they who will be close to God can intercede for us who are in this "vale of tears." In other words, all these traditional theological terms express a simple truth: that life continues after death, love is everlasting because God is love. Our human love is purified and perfected by God's love because all our love has God's love as its origin and destination. This month of November, as we specially remember the dear departed, as we place the banner in our church with the names of those who died from our parish community in the last year, as we pray for them in a very special, even emotional way, as we visit their graves and place flowers over them, let our hearts keep chanting this simple prayer: "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen."

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) Thank-You Luncheon on Nov. 07: I have sent letters out. Please do RSVP! This is a way to thank you for your participation and generosity in supporting the Archdiocesan ministries through AAA.

Quotes on Death and Life:

"The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." --- Mark Twain.

"If there is a meaning in life at all, then there must be a meaning in suffering. Suffering is an ineradicable part of life, even as fate and death. Without suffering and death, human life cannot be complete." --- Viktor E. Frankl.

"Every parting gives a foretaste of death, every reunion a hint of the resurrection." --- Arthur Schopenhauer.

"Death is a challenge. It tells us not to waste time ... It tells us to tell each other right now that we love each other." --- Leo Buscaglia. "

"Because I could not stop for death, He kindly stopped for me; The carriage held but just ourselves and immortality." --- Emily Dickinson.

"For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one." --- Khalil Gibran.

Quotes for All Saints Day:

"Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you!" - St. Augustine.

"Leave sadness to those in the world. We who work for God should be light-hearted." - Saint Leonard of Port Maurice.

"You cannot be half a saint; you must be a whole saint or no saint at all." - St. Therese of Lisieux.

"Love God, serve God; everything is in that." - St. Clare of Assisi.

"Be at peace with your own soul, then heaven and earth will be at peace with you." - Isaac of Nineveh.

"God creates out of nothing. Wonderful you say. Yes, to be sure, but he does what is still more wonderful: he makes saints out of sinners. - Soren Kierkegaard

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota