

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

November 7, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Month of November to Honor the Faithful Departed: In the midst of our hectic activities, let's keep those who have died from our families and circles of friends in our hearts and minds and prayers. Our love for them continues and survives death. Our faith informs us of the new life they are given, thanks to the resurrection of our Lord who vanquished sin and death. Our hope impels us to long for union with our dear departed when the time comes, in the Kingdom of God. If our dear ones are buried in a cemetery close by, it would be wonderful to visit their graves and pray. It's been a Catholic way of doing things for a couple of thousand years. As we pray for the dear departed, let's learn to look at death in a realistic, faith-filled, liberating way, so that the inevitability of death can deepen our desire for life and love. Death can enhance our love for life. "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen."

Pope Francis's Efforts on Climate Change: On October 04, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis called for a meeting of dozens of religious leaders with a plea to protect the environment, warning that "future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home." On October 09, Pope Francis called on governments to work together to tackle climate change as he hosted lawmakers from around the world who were in Rome for a two-day preparatory meeting for the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference. Pope Francis addressed the lawmakers in the Paul VI Hall, days after signing a joint appeal with religious leaders and scientists that called on governments to come together on goals at the upcoming conference. Challenging the lawmakers to overcome "the narrow confines" of partisan politics to quickly reach consensus on fighting climate change, Pope Francis called on lawmakers to "transition towards clean energy; to adopt sustainable land use practices, preventing deforestation and restoring forests, conserving biodiversity, favoring food systems that are environmentally friendly and respectful of local cultures, and to promote sustainable lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production."

COP26 Climate Change Summit in Glasgow: As followers of Christ, we are actively engaged in protecting and preserving the planet earth, our common home, as Pope Francis calls it. The earth has been given to us by the Creator and we are to practice wise stewardship of this precious gift. The Holy Father's vision about our caring for the earth was spelled out in 2015 in his second encyclical "Laudato Si." As you may be aware, the UN Climate Change Conference is meeting now in Glasgow, Scotland, from October 31 through November 12. The COP26 summit will bring nations together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Climate change is the greatest risk facing the human race. Around the world, storms, floods and wildfires are intensifying. Air pollution affects vast numbers of people. Environmental degradation and global warming are happening at alarming speeds. Unpredictable weather causes untold damage to properties and livelihoods. The goal of this Glasgow conference is to secure global net zero plan by countries adopting practical measures such as phasing out coal, curtailing deforestation, switching to electric vehicles and investing in renewables. It will involve protecting and restoring ecosystems and building defences against loss of homes, livelihoods, and even lives. The Holy Father is urging the nations to take "radical" action to address climate change.

Highly Recommending a Book: The title of this book is “*Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church*.” Published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Cost is: \$16.95. This book is an excellent synthesis of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in concise, question-and-answer form. As you may know, the Catechism consists of four parts. 1. Profession of faith (interpretation of the Creed). 2. Celebration of the Christian Mystery (Sacraments). 3. Life in Christ (Christian morality). 4. Christian prayer. This book is a great way of being in touch with the basic elements and features of Catholic faith. To order, visit: <https://store.usccb.org>

Poetic Inspiration: Fire and Ice: “Some say the world will end in fire, / Some say in ice. / From what I've tasted of desire, / I hold with those who favor fire. / But if it had to perish twice / I think I know enough of hate / To say that for destruction ice / Is also great / and would suffice.” — Robert Frost

A Story to Ponder: When Handel’s MESSIAH was first performed in London, the King who was present, was so carried away by religious sentiment during the Alleluia chorus that, against all convention, he stood up in silent respect for the masterpiece he was hearing. When they saw this, all the nobles present followed the example of the King and stood up too. That was the signal, of course, for everyone in the audience to stand up! Since then it is considered *de rigueur* to stand up each time the Alleluia is sung regardless of one’s inner disposition or the quality of the performance.

Humor:

1. A priest’s sermon concerned the relationship between the fact and faith. “That you are sitting before me in this church,” he said, “is fact.” That I am standing, speaking from this pulpit, is fact. But it is, only faith that makes me believe anyone is listening.”
2. A rich old aunt who was paying her nephew’s college expenses was once asked by her pastor how expensive was education. “Well,” said the aunt, “some of the languages run pretty high. My check this month covered \$200 for English, \$300 for Latin, and \$500 for *Scotch*.”

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota