

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

January 30, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Parish Maintenance-Related Expenses --- For Your Information: I would like to keep you informed of some recent expenses related to our maintenance in the parish.

1. A few weeks ago, we got a **new boiler** installed in Alta Vista School at the cost of \$49,225.00.
2. The **insulation of boiler pipes** at the same venue cost us an extra \$1,904.16.
3. Along with that expense, we had to get **asbestos abatement** done at Alta Vista School at the cost of \$2,207.50.
4. As you know, we need to pay an annual amount to the Archdiocese for **liability and property insurance**. This year the amount is \$73,143.00.
5. We are installing a **new water heater** in Cantwell Hall (church basement) at the cost of \$5,796.00, which includes a 10-year warranty.
6. The **old Convent** at 454 Goettingen St, which belongs to our parish, is **being painted** at an estimated cost of nearly \$15,000. Once this work is over, I'm hoping we could rent it out to prospective tenants. A Real Estate company (Baldini Property Management) has been hired to help find the tenants and manage the property.
7. There is a **pending project of repairing the church roof**. As you know, the last time it rained heavily, there were a few leaks. Both the A-Frame and the flat surfaces of the roof need repairing which will cost us tens of thousands of dollars.

I'm letting you know of all these expenses so that everyone is aware that these maintenance issues are addressed promptly and effectively and to give you a sense of how much it costs to keep running our parish and doing all the maintenance on a regular basis. Thank you for your donations. Please do continue to support St. Elizabeth parish with your prayers as well as with your generous weekly offerings. We need to keep doing God's work in our parish. For that, we need the physical structures of buildings that require a lot of upkeep.

Parish Survey about Pope Francis' Synod of Synodality is underway: Pope Francis invited the global Catholic Church to gather and reflect on communion, participation, and mission within the Church. The two-year process of listening and dialogue is themed, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission" and is being referred to as the "synod on synodality," which the Holy Father officially opened with Mass at Saint Peter's Basilica on October 10, 2021. Currently, dioceses throughout the world including our own are beginning the next phase of the synod which includes consultation and dialogue. Our participating in the survey is part of this process.

What is a "synod" and what does it mean? It's a meeting of bishops from all over the world established by Pope Paul VI on 15 September, 1965, in response to the desire of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council to discuss doctrinal or pastoral matters. Synods offer suggestions to the Pope, which may or may not become official teachings at a later time. Literally speaking the word "synod"--- derived from two Greek words syn meaning "together" and hodos meaning "road" or "way"--- means a "coming together."

What is different about this Synod?: This Synod is unique. The Holy Father is asking that the entire Church participate in this Synod. The faithful, clergy, and religious are invited to pray, listen, and talk together with the Bishops before the 2023 gathering of Bishops in Rome.

Word of God: God calls us and sends us out to others to share a personal message. This message each one of us can share not so much in words but through our love and service. This is what we reflect on as we read from Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you." In the second reading, Paul speaks of the qualities of love. We can do an examination of conscience to see if we are able to practice these various manifestations and concretizations of love: "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." In the gospel we see how the prophetic message of Jesus runs into stiff opposition to the point of people trying to hurl him down the brow of a hill headlong.

Think About It: "Today you are you! That is truer than true. There is no one alive who is you-er than you!" ---Dr. Seuss

Joke: A little child in church for the first time watched as the ushers were taking up the collection. When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so that everyone could hear: "Don't pay for me Daddy, I'm under five."

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota