

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

May 15, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Some Easter Thoughts: A New Heaven and a New Earth: In the second reading this Sunday from the Book of Revelation, John speaks about seeing “a new heaven and a new earth... The One who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’” Easter is a time to think about how we can be a new creation and inhabit a new heaven and a new earth. It’s astonishing that even the heaven will be new. It is all made possible because of the resurrection of Jesus. We can now think and act differently. We can have a new vision. A new energy. A new feeling. A new sense of assurance. A new insight into love and service. What is the newness that the Risen Christ wants to create in me? How can I respond to that call and the challenge to be new? How can I look at the world and the issues and struggles in a new way? Is it possible that we are stuck in the past and unable to move forward? Is it possible that we are frozen in our ideas about politics, culture, society, media, and economics? Is it possible that we are falsely obsessed with “having” rather than “being”? Is it possible that we are ideologically stuck and are unable to look at the truth in an objective way? What is my theological, Christian understanding of standing up for the poor and the disadvantaged in an economics where the rich might be getting richer and the poor are left neglected? Are we able to forge unity in the world and the Church divided by diverse and divergent convictions? The Easter Lord wants to create newness in heaven and on earth. If we allow our minds and hearts to be transformed by the Spirit of Christ, we would be collaborating with the Lord in ushering in a new heaven and a new earth. The following quote expresses beautifully the new creation in a poetic and metaphoric way.

G. K. Chesterton in *The Everlasting Man* speaks about Easter: “On the third day the friends of Christ coming at daybreak to the place found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways, they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but of the dawn.”

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal: We have reached the goal of \$30,500. Well done! Thank you! Please see the names of donors on the last page of the bulletin. Thank you again to all donors, including those who donated 1% and more. You have made generous donations in support of the Archdiocesan ministries and services. Those who are still undecided, you may still donate because whatever is surplus will be returned to our parish by the Archdiocese.

Wisdom from the Oracle of Omaha, Warren Buffett, 91, about Money and Love: Years ago, when I was studying for my doctoral degree at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI, my Jesuit friend Fr. Jim Fitzgerald took me to visit his family in Omaha, Nebraska. While there, he was keen on showing me the house of Warren Buffet who lives in Omaha. He drove me around by his house. It was a simple house (it still is) that reflected the modest style of living of one of the richest men in the world. His house is 6,570 square feet stucco house consisting of just five bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms. When asked by BBC why he didn't move to an extravagant house, he said: "I'm happy there. I'd move if I thought I'd be happier someplace else." Buffet said the following to a group of students at Georgia Tech when they asked him about his definition of success, which is quoted in his biography *The Snowball: Warren Buffett and the Business of Life*:

"Basically, when you get to my age, you'll really measure your success in life by how many of the people you want to have love you actually do love you. I know many people who have a lot of money, and they get testimonial dinners and they get hospital wings named after them. But the truth is that nobody in the world loves them. That's the ultimate test of how you have lived your life. The trouble with love is that you can't buy it.... You can buy testimonial dinners. But the only way to get love is to be lovable. It's very irritating if you have a lot of money. You'd like to think you could write a check: I'll buy a million dollars' worth of love. But it doesn't work that way. The more you give love away, the more you get."

May, Month of Mary: "Let us run to her, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence." --- Saint Francis de Sales. "In trial or difficulty, I have recourse to Mother Mary, whose glance alone is enough to dissipate every fear."--- *Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.*

Joke: A man in Las Vegas approached a wealthy-looking stranger and said, "Can you spare me twenty-five dollars, sir? I haven't eaten for two days and I have no place to sleep." "How do I know you won't take the money and gamble with it?" "No way," said the man. "Gambling money I already have with me."

Wishing you and your families the eternal blessings of Easter season,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota