

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

May 22, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Easter Season: “The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise.” --- Carl Knudsen. “Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time.” --- Martin Luther. “Easter tells us that life is to be interpreted not simply in terms of things but in terms of ideals.” -- - Charles M. Crowe. “Let the resurrection joy lift us from loneliness and weakness and despair to strength and beauty and happiness.” --- Floyd W. Tomkins. “He takes men out of time and makes them feel eternity.” --- Ralph Waldo Emerson. “Where man sees but withered leaves, God sees sweet flowers growing.” --- Albert Loughton. “He departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find Him. For He departed, and behold, He is here.” --- St. Augustine. “The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances.” --- Robert Flatt.

Important Feasts the Next Few Sundays to Look Forward to: Next Sunday May 29 is Ascension Sunday. The Sunday after that---June 05---is Pentecost. The Sunday after that---June 12---is Holy Trinity. The Sunday after that---June 19---is Corpus Christi. The Friday following that Sunday of Corpus Christi---June 24---is Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The next day, Saturday, is Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Let's in anticipation prepare ourselves spiritually and psychologically for these feasts. Let's always try to find the connection of these divine mysteries to our personal lives and families.

Season of Sacraments: As you know, this is a season of sacraments in our parish. Six of our Faith Formation children (see the picture) made their First Communion last Sunday May 15. Congratulations to them and their families! Weeks earlier they had made their First Reconciliation. On Saturday May 7, three of our students Alan, Nicholas and Michael made their Confirmation at the Cathedral. I have also been baptizing babies in the Rectory chapel on some Saturdays. These are all memorable moments of encounter with Christ and occasions of great blessing for families and the whole parish community. These sacraments are the “the doors to the sacred”, as author Joseph Martos would say. Let's rejoice over such showers of graces and blessings on the parish community received through these sacramental celebrations.

Prayer for Ukraine: Let's keep praying for peace in Ukraine. Let all violence and war, death and destruction, cease! Let there be peace in Ukraine and on earth!

Congratulations, Parish Catechists!: Pius X Awards Dinner Honoring catechists took place on Thursday May 12 at the Cathedral. I had invited all of our Faith Formation catechists to join this event. From St. Elizabeth parish, Cipriano Peneyra and Michael Walsh got the awards for their five years as catechists and Richard John for his 10 years of service. Thank you for sharing faith with our Faith Formation children! You are proclaiming the good news to them and making disciples for Christ. I would like to invite the parishioners to encourage their children and grandchildren and anyone else that they might know to become part of our Faith Formation program. I would very much like to see that the numbers grow in this program.

Oh, When the Saints, Go Marching in: Ten New Saints Canonized by Pope Francis last Sunday May 15, 2022:

- Charles de Foucauld**: A French soldier and explorer who became a Trappist monk and Catholic missionary to Muslims in Algeria. Known as **Brother Charles of Jesus**, he was killed in 1916 at the age of 58.
- Titus Brandsma**: A Dutch priest, professor, and journalist who opposed Nazi propaganda in Catholic newspapers. **He was killed** by lethal injection in Dachau in 1942.
- Devasahayam Pillai**: **A layman from India** who was tortured and martyred after converting from Hinduism to Catholicism in the 18th century.
- Marie Rivier**: The founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Presentation. The Frenchwoman founded the order in 1796, **at the age of 28**, during the Reign of Terror.
- Maria Francesca of Jesus**: **A 19th-century missionary** founder who crossed the Atlantic Ocean seven times by boat to establish an order of Capuchin sisters in Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil.
- Maria Domenica Mantovani**: The first general superior of the Institute of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family, which **she co-founded** to serve the poor, orphaned, and the sick in Italy in 1892.
- Maria of Jesus Santocanale**: **The founder** of the Capuchin Sisters of Immaculate Mary of Lourdes in Sicily in 1910. She spent most of her free moments, day or night, in front of the tabernacle.
- César de Bus**: A French Catholic priest who founded two religious congregations in the 16th century. He was a zealous preacher and catechist, who performed many works of charity.
- Luigi Maria Palazzolo**: An Italian priest who is known for having established the Sisters of the Poor, opened an orphanage, and worked for the poor.
- Giustino Maria Russolillo**: The founder of the religious congregations of the Vocationist Fathers, the Vocationist Sisters and of the Secular Institute of the Apostles of Universal Sanctification in Italy. The priest was devoted to educating young people and cultivating their vocations.

A Humorous Story: Russian Winters: When the Russian-Finnish boundary line was being redrawn a farmer was told that the border passed right through the middle of his land. He therefore had the option of having his land taken into Russia or Finland. He promised to give the matter serious thought; and after some weeks announced that he wanted to live in Finland. A host of incensed Russian officials descended on him to explain the advantages of belonging to Russia, not Finland. The man heard them out, then said. "I am in complete agreement with everything you say. In fact, it has always been my desire to live in Mother Russia. But at my age I simply won't be able to survive another of those Russian winters."

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota