

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

May 29, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Ascension Sunday: This Sunday we meditate on the mystery of Jesus being ascended to his Father. The Jesus of History now becomes the Jesus of Faith. Jesus accomplished his mission. He came from the Father. He did all sorts of good deeds in his ministry. He suffered and died on the cross. He rose from the dead and appeared many times to different people, encouraging and affirming them. Now he goes back to his Father. He does not leave us orphans, though. He will send us the Holy Spirit, which we will celebrate next Sunday. He has also assured us that he will be with us always, even to the end of time. When Jesus lived in this world, he could not go to every place and every nation. Now he wants us to go and share the good news with everyone in the world. We are the messengers. Not only are we messengers. We are witnesses. All of us who have experienced Jesus as our way, the truth, and the life, we are to go and witness to others. In our words and deeds, in our values and vision, we are to make Christ known to the world.

This is the meaning of the feast of Ascension that we celebrate this weekend. Jesus has passed on the baton to us. We have to carry it to others. The relay race is on. We have to do our part in taking Christ to our own family and friends, and beyond. The angels said at his Ascension: "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." Until Jesus comes back to fulfill the destiny of the whole universe, which we call his Second Coming, we have a job to do as Christians. We have love to share, forgiveness to offer, mercy to show, justice to establish, and dignity to uphold. We have the hungry to feed, naked to clothe, strangers to welcome, prisoners to visit, homeless to shelter. These are all the tasks that Jesus wants us to do. He needs our help. We are his eyes and heart, his hands and feet. The message of the Ascension is for us to continue and complete the mission of Christ. Let there be peace and harmony in the world. Let the blessings of our Heavenly Father flow to everyone in this world so that no one can be deprived of the basic necessities of life.

Annual Closing Mass for Parish Faith Formation: Last Sunday at the 9:30 a.m. Mass, we had the whole Faith Formation children participating in the Mass along with their parents and teachers, including the Parish Pastoral Coordinator, Patti Spiteri. I congratulate the new FF Coordinator Laurie Digneo and her team for conducting rehearsals beforehand for this Mass and for meticulously planning all the details of the Mass. The Faith Formation children read the readings and the Universal Prayer, they took up the collection, brought up the gifts, and joined in the entrance procession with candles in their hands. It was all a beautiful participation by our Faith Formation community. I thank the parents for sending their children to this program and for their engagement in the life of the Church. I would like to invite more families to send their children and grandchildren to our program so that we can prepare them for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation, and be engaged in sharing faith.

Thank You, Volunteers: In our parish, the spirit of volunteerism is flourishing. I would like to thank the sacristans, ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, the choir, those who do the church environment, and the Faith Formation teachers for all your generous service to God and God's people in our parish. When the time comes, I would like to have a volunteer appreciation dinner for all the volunteers.

Thank You, Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) Donors: To each one who has donated to AAA for 2022, thank you for your generous support. It's much appreciated. I will come back to you each year in February to make this appeal and I will count on your continued support. I'll now start planning on the luncheon for the "AAA 1% & More" donors.

A Spiritual Story to Ponder: The Self: An elderly gentleman ran a curio and antique shop in a large city. A tourist once stepped in and got to talking with the old man about the many things that were stacked in that shop. Said the tourist, "What would you say is the strangest, the most mysterious thing you have here?" The old man surveyed the hundreds of curios, antiques, stuffed animals, shrunken heads, mounted fish and birds, archaeological finds, deer heads... then turned to the tourist and said, "The strangest thing in this shop is unquestionably myself."

Short Jokes:

1. Patient: "Doctor! You've got to help me! Nobody ever listens to me. No one ever pays any attention to what I have to say." Doctor: "Next please!"
2. "Excuse me. Do you know the way to the zoo?" "No, I'm sorry I don't." "Well, it's two blocks this way, then one block to the left."
3. Teacher: "Do you have trouble making decisions?" Student: "Well...yes and no."
4. Man: "I could go to the end of the world for you." Woman: "Yes, but would you stay there?"
5. Man: "I offer you myself." Woman: "I am sorry. I never accept cheap gifts."

May the Risen and Ascended Jesus grant you and your families all the graces and blessings!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota