

# Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

June 5, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



## Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Pentecost Sunday:** As we are well aware, Pentecost is the Birthday of the Church. The disciples of Jesus were hiding, afraid that they might also be killed by the authorities. But Jesus had assured them that the Advocate, the Comforter, would come and remind them of everything Jesus had said. In other words, the Holy Spirit would come to give life, energy, and dynamism to the words and memory of Jesus. Everything changed for those disciples that Pentecost day. The Holy Spirit came down in a dramatic way. The wind and the fire swept the fears away and burned away their powerlessness. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke and bore witness to the life of Jesus, his death and resurrection. Everyone heard everyone else in their own language and understood them. The good news became not only accessible but alive and aflame. The disciples of Jesus became fearless preachers and witnesses. A community was born with the memory of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. For over two thousand years this community has been called the Church. We are all members of this body. Jesus is the head. The Holy Spirit is the indwelling grace and power within us calling God Abba Father. If we allow the Holy Spirit to move and guide us, that's when we make the right choices for God, love, family, faith, and the world. Let's just keep two images of the Holy Spirit in mind: Wind & Fire. What might this wind and fire do for us and in the world today?

**Prayer to the Holy Spirit:** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth. Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Quotes on the Holy Spirit:** "O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams." --- Saint Augustine. "I myself do nothing. The Holy Spirit accomplishes all through me." --- William Blake. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." --- Galatians 5:22. The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord. "The Holy Spirit is your spiritual GPS. He will tell you where you are and where you are going." "My thoughts belong to the Holy Spirit. They are not mine. St. Paul assures us that without the Spirit of Love, we cannot call God our Father." --- Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.

**An American Tragedy: Uvalde, Texas: Pope Francis' Message:** Saying his heart was broken at the news of at least 19 children and two adults being shot and killed at a Texas elementary school, Pope Francis said it was time to say "Enough!" and enact stricter laws on gun sales. At the end of his weekly general audience May 25, with thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square, the pope prayed publicly for the victims of the shooting the day before at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. "With a heart shattered over the massacre at the elementary school in Texas, I pray for the children and adults who were killed and for their families," the pope told the crowd. "It is time to say, 'Enough!' to the indiscriminate trafficking of guns," the pope said. "Let's all work to ensure that such tragedies never happen again." Shortly before the audience, Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio, an archdiocese that includes Uvalde, tweeted: "Holy Father Pope Francis, say some prayers for the souls of our little ones killed today and two teachers. Uvalde is in mourning. The families are having a very dark time. Your prayer will do good to them." (Catholic News Service)

**My Double Digit Birthday---I'll be 66 this June 11:** I was 33 years old when I was ordained a priest (August 19, 1989) in my hometown in India where I had been born and baptized, received my Communion and Confirmation and my Catholic elementary education. Now I have added 33 more years as priest. It is an honor and privilege to serve God, the Church, and our own St. Elizabeth Church. Please keep me in your prayers---and I count on your continued support for what we together are called to do in and through our parish community.

**For Your Families and Friends in Need of Sacraments: Baptisms, Confessions, Anointing of the Sick, Weddings, Funerals, Quinceañeras,** please contact the parish office or talk to me. I'm ready and happy to serve you by meeting your needs and situations in a creative and flexible way. Do not hesitate to ask for help. I'll try to make the process as easy and accessible as possible. I think it is important to go out of my way to help, especially after these two years of Covid restrictions.

**Short Jokes:**

1. A: "Hey, man! Please call me a taxi." B: "Yes, sir. You are a taxi."
2. Student: "Would you punish me for something I didn't do?" Teacher: "Of course not." Student: "Good, because I haven't done my homework."
3. A: "Why are you crying?" B: "The elephant is dead." A: "Was he your pet?" B: "No, but I'm the one who must dig his grave."
4. Principal: "I've had complaints about you, Johnny, from all your teachers. What have you been doing?" Johnny: "Nothing, sir." Principal: "Exactly."
5. Little Johnny: "Teacher, can I go to the bathroom?" Teacher: "Little Johnny, MAY I go to the bathroom?" Little Johnny: "But I asked first!"

**Wishing you all the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in a concrete and intimate ways in your lives,**

Your Friend and Pastor,  
Father Charles Puthota