

# Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

June 12, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



## Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Feast of the Most Holy Trinity:** This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Triune God. What an awesome mystery! My friend Father David Coffey from Australia is a specialist on Trinity and has written an influential book called "Deus Trinitas." Who can plumb the depths of God? In Christian Revelation, we have come to understand that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, three Persons but one God, affect our life profoundly. The Father sends us the Son; the Son sends us the Holy Spirit. We live in them. They live in us. The mystical union we have with the Triune God is both simple and transcendent. The three Persons of the Trinity live in a perfect community of relationships. They are the perfect model for our families and communities---and the whole world. As we reflect on the Trinity, we can strive to make the world a better place with the kind of love that exists in the Trinitarian Community. This Holy Community of Trinity has equality and relationality, diversity and unity, three Persons and One God. Wouldn't it be most beneficial if we could put into practice the insights we have of the Trinity to make the world a better place filled with peace and harmony? Couldn't our families and communities follow the love and respect that reigns supreme in the Trinity?

**Quotes on the Trinity:** "If the mystery of the Trinity is the template of all reality, what we have in the Trinitarian God is the perfect balance between union and differentiation, autonomy and mutuality, identity and community."---Richard Rohr. "Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man that can comprehend the Triune God."---John Wesley. "We see in the relationships between the Father, Son, and Spirit a dynamic of love, of other-person-centeredness." Sam Allberry. "The boundless life that God lives in himself ... is complete, inexhaustibly full, and infinitely blessed.... The good news of the gospel is that God has opened up the dynamics of his triune life and given us a share in that fellowship."---Fred Sanders.

**Spirituality of the Ordinary Time:** After Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost, we have come into the "Ordinary Time," which will continue until we begin the Advent Season on November 27, 2022. The liturgical color is green. The focus is on our becoming the disciples of Jesus. Jesus who has ascended to his Father has given us the Holy Spirit, who comforts us and reminds us of all that Jesus has taught us. Even as the early Church was guided by the Holy Spirit, which we read in the Acts of the Apostles, the same Spirit guides our goings and comings in the 21st Century. Jesus has not orphaned us. He is with us always, even to the end of time. So let's open our hearts to the Holy Spirit who will make the teachings of Jesus alive and aflame for us, will make us be excited about Jesus and his values, will lead us in discernment to make the good choices, and spend our lives in love and service. One of the things I'd recommend is that we take the Bible seriously in this Ordinary Time. Every day we could read a passage especially from the Gospels, meditate on what God is trying to tell us and then respond to it. Pope Francis some years ago was speaking to some people who commute each day to their work. He urged them to keep a pocket Bible and read, if possible, while they travel to and from their work. We could also buy, if possible, something like St. Joseph Weekday and Sunday Missal (in three volumes) for our daily Masses. Or follow USCCB Readings right on our cell phones! These are big helps for us in paying attention to the Word of God. All in all, this Ordinary Time which spans over six months is nothing ordinary; it's extraordinary because God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit continues to love us fiercely, care for us tenderly, fill us totally, and lead us gently toward generosity, love, forgiveness, and service.

**Heartbreaking Mass Shootings:** According to National Public Radio (NPR), as of June 5, 2022, only 22 weeks into this year, there have been 246 mass shootings in America. In 2021, there were 692 mass shootings. In 2020 there were 610. In 2019, there were 417. The most recent ones happened in Buffalo, NY; Uvalde, TX; Chattanooga, TN; Philadelphia, PA; Tulsa, OK. As we pray for the victims, let's keep hoping against hope that through the awareness of the voting citizens and legislative actions in the Congress such violent killings may come to an end and that everyone, including the little school children, may be safe.

**A Story to Ponder:** The choir was going through its final rehearsal in the midst of pandemonium because the stage crew was busy putting the finishing touches to the stage. When one young fellow began hammering away so loudly that the din became intolerable, the conductor stopped the singing and looked at him pleadingly. "Go right ahead with the singing, conductor," the merry worker said. "They are not disturbing me."

**Humor:** A well-known politician went to visit a senior care facility to cheer up the residents. However, he was disappointed and dismayed that none of the older folks recognized him. They just quietly looked at him. Finally, he went up to one of the older women and said, "Do you know who I am?" The elderly woman responded: "No, I don't know. But if you'll wait just a minute, I'll go get one of the nurses. I'm sure they can tell you who you are."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota