

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

June 19, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Corpus Christi: This Sunday is the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Keep in mind, it's not called the Feast of the Soul of Christ or the Spirit of Christ. It's the body and blood of Christ. It's the feast of the flesh and blood of Christ. We are connected with the flesh and blood of Christ. That's how close we are to him. In the Eucharist, he enters our flesh and blood, and we enter his flesh and blood. We---Jesus and us---become inseparable. As Paul says, "It's no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me." When we share the Eucharist, we become intimate with Christ and with one another. When we become one with others in the Eucharist, the implications for what we can do for one another are crystal clear. We'll love, respect, and care for one another. We'll rearrange our relationships; we'll ensure that no one goes without food, clothing, shelter, justice, dignity, peace, and prosperity, not just in our neighborhood, but all over the world.

Jesus is the bread of life. Even as bread is essential for the survival of body, Jesus is essential for our life. Jesus is the Bread for the world as well. When the world shares in the body and blood of Christ, we'll strive to remove hunger and poverty from the world. We can do that by sharing our blessings with others. As Julius Nyerere, the late President of Tanzania and an ardent Catholic, said: "It's not that we do not have enough for everyone; it's that we do not have people who share." Ultimately, as Jesus shares his own life with others in the Eucharist, we are called to share our lives, all that we are and do, with others. Eucharist is also Thanksgiving; it's the memory of Jesus; it's the source of eternal life; it's the sign of the unity of the human family; it's what transforms us into the body of Christ, the community of believers. If the Eucharist is all this multi-dimensional reality and mystery, with what kind of reverence and anticipation should we be approaching it, knowing that in the Eucharist there's the assurance of our being united inseparably with Christ and with all others, with the assurance that we are all destined for a life of fulfillment here and life everlasting?

Father's Day: To all the fathers, Happy Father's Day! For some of us, our fathers are with us and what a blessing it is for us to love and cherish them --- and take care of them! For some others, our fathers are gone to their eternal reward. My father Isaac returned to God at the end of December in 2017. I'm still grieving, and I know you who have lost your fathers, no matter how long ago, still grieve and miss them. We celebrate our fathers and shall always keep their sacred memory, whether they are with us now or gone to God. In our fathers, we cannot but see God Himself. Isn't it beautiful that God himself is our Father? Jesus called God his Abba (Father) and taught us to pray to "our Father" and relate to Him as His children. Our Father loves us with an everlasting love and unconditionally. He makes the rain fall on the good and the bad and lets the sun shine on the good and the bad. Such is his abiding and awesome love. Because we are all the children of the one Father, we become intimately connected with one another as sisters and brothers. How could we then not take care of one another in our need? How could we let anyone in this human family be deprived of basic needs and necessities?

A Father's Day Prayer: God, our Father, Bless these men, that they may find strength as fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish Consultors Meeting (PCM): on Friday June 10, I had called a meeting of representatives from various ministries and organizations of our parish to share experiences and help evaluate our parish life. There were 30 people present. We sang hymns, representatives from each group shared their experiences in their particular ministry, and I as pastor, from my vantage point, shared about the various parish aspects, both spiritual and temporal, including the maintenance and upkeep of our buildings and facilities. There was a great spirit of goodwill, gratitude, and joy in the group. We ended the meeting with a meal that everyone seemed to enjoy. The delicious food was catered by Ulisses Catering.

Faith Formation Program: Please do register as early as possible for 2022-23 year. Laurrie Digneo, our new coordinator of Faith Formation, spoke at both Masses last weekend, inviting families to enroll their children and grandchildren. We would very much like to grow the numbers of our students. Please help by persuading your own families to become part of our Faith Formation program. We are eager to prepare them for the First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation, and help orient them for a life of faith and service according to the mind and heart of Christ.

Humor: God Sending an E-mail: One day God looked at the earth and saw all kinds of terrible and evil things going on. A couple of his angels came back from the earth to report to God, "Lord, 95% of the people do not obey your will, and only 5% do." So God decided to send an e-mail to the 5% who were good to thank and encourage them. Do you know what that e-mail said?... Oh, you didn't get that e-mail either?

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota