

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

July 10, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Summer Musings: Summer has come. In Northern Hemisphere, it started on June 21 and will officially end on September 22. The winter and spring are over. We have had some pretty warm days, and we longed for chilly days. Sure enough, the chilly days are back. We see the fog rolling over from the ocean and it's a welcome thing, a natural air-conditioning indeed! I sure like the long summer days. It's bright early and the light lasts late into the evening. The seasons are metaphors for our minds and hearts. What do we think? How do we feel? Nights come, and we think and feel all sorts of sad things, at times, but with the dawn we feel better. Things are not so bad as they seemed in the night. In summer, maybe we could do some new things. Maybe we could do something different from our routine lives. Perhaps go to the seaside and look at the majesty and might of the vast ocean crashing on the shore ceaselessly. Perhaps visit a museum. De Young, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), Legion of Honor, Asian Art Museum, CA Academy of Sciences, Exploratorium, Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD), and Contemporary Jewish Museum are among the museums worth visiting. If anyone would like me to accompany you to any of these museums, do let me know. I would love to contemplate art with you and enjoy the beauty in these creative masterpieces. Maybe, you could go to a park and look at the flowers and the little children running about. Golden Gate park has so many soul-nourishing things to offer. The Japanese Tea Garden, Conservatory of Flowers, Ocean Beach, the Cliff House, etc. are worth visiting. Pier 39 is one of my favorites. Fisherman's Wharf draws so many from around the world. Close by, we have our own McLaren Park, which I haven't explored enough myself. Across the Golden Gate Bridge, Sausalito is picturesque and charming. If you want to venture out farther, the wine country is always alluring. When we do things different from our routine lives, our body and soul, our heart and imagination, are refreshed and renewed. Of course, gas prices these days are a big consideration. Coupled with high inflation, I suppose we all have to be careful and make good choices.

For Your Information: Some Parish Maintenance Projects and Costs: As you know, our parish has four buildings which need continuous upkeep and maintenance. In the spirit of keeping you informed of our projects, here I give you a list of those and the costs involved. The flat surfaces of the church roof recently completed costs us \$100,856. The sound system in the church completed over a year and a half ago cost us \$39,600. The grotto project which was completed before I arrived in the parish cost over \$200,000. As you know, the old convent building needed to be made ready to be rented out. It had been used by the former tenants as storage of their drama costumes. Now four men have moved into the property as our tenants. The painting and other jobs done cost us nearly \$20,000. In Cantwell Hall, the water heater was replaced at the cost of \$5,796. As landlords of the Alta Vista School building, we had to pay for the installation of the boiler at the cost of \$64,705.30. There were related expenses to this boiler installation: abatement at the cost of \$3,598, insulation of pipes at the cost of \$1,904.54, air sampling at the cost of \$2,207.50. At present, there is electrical work being done inside the Church and on the Church roof. Earlier in the year, we paid \$73,000 toward our property and liability insurance.

Please do continue to support our parish through your participation in the life of the parish and your generous donations so that we could continue to keep doing God's work at St. Elizabeth Parish.

Word of God: The gospel reading is about the love God and love of neighbor. It is the summary of our lives as human beings and Christians. Who are we? We are created by God who is love. The reason for our creation is love. The purpose of our existence is love. The journey of our life is to be founded on love. The destination of our life is love. Loving God and loving others is what motivates everything that we do. All our examination of conscience addresses the question “who is my neighbor?” Jesus gives us the unforgettable parable of the Good Samaritan. Love of God has to be reflected in love of neighbor. They are two sides of the same coin. John in his first letter says: “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God. This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.”(4:20,21). At times, people think it is enough to love God and not to pay attention to our love of others. Jesus insightfully invites us that the love of God is dependent on the love of neighbor and that the love of neighbor will necessarily lead us to love of God. As we go about our daily lives, let’s think about how we are doing in this area of love of God and others. This commandment of love should actually be applied to all things in our personal and public lives. In the choices we make as individuals, families, and nations, in politics and culture, in economics and public policy, in everything that we do, is love of God and love of others a consideration and guiding principle?

Pun Jokes:

1. A woman in labor suddenly shouted, “Shouldn’t! Wouldn’t! Couldn’t! Didn’t! Can’t!” “Don’t worry,” said the doc. “Those are just contractions.”
2. A bear walks into a bar and says, “Give me a whiskey andcola.” “Why the big pause?” asks the bartender. The bear shrugged. “I’m not sure; I was born with them.”
3. Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards? He was just going through a stage.
4. Did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut? He just needed a little space.
5. Did you hear about the two people who stole a calendar? They each got six months.

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota