

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

July 17, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

San Francisco Summer Reveries: "East is East, and West is San Francisco." – **O. Henry**

"I never dreamed I'd like any city as well as London. San Francisco is exciting, moody, exhilarating. I even love the muted fogs." – **Julie Christie**. "I left my heart in San Francisco." – **Tony Bennet**.

"San Francisco is perhaps the most European of all American cities" – **Cecil Beaton**. "If you're alive, you can't be bored in San Francisco. If you're not alive, San Francisco will bring you to life."

– **William Saroyan**

"San Francisco is a golden handcuff with the key thrown away." – **John Steinbeck**

I hope you are getting some rest and relaxation this summer, and perhaps some travel, a good book to read, and an art movie to see, a friend to cherish, and some new thing to enjoy. One of the things that has helped me is to do new, out-of-the-routine things so that our minds and hearts are refreshed and nourished. If anyone asks you to go on some adventurous thing, however small it may be, go for it! Hope your summer is going well, even though at times, we may have cold, windy days, but whoever said the seasons of the heart are dependent on the seasons outside.

Religious Education Congress in Anaheim February 23rd through 26, 2023. At Anaheim

Convention Center. The theme of the Congress is: Embrace Grace. It's an excellent gathering of thousands of people who celebrate their identity as Catholics by engaging in intellectual, spiritual, liturgical, and musical programs. I regularly attend this annual event to keep abreast of theology, spirituality, liturgy, and other matters of the Church. If you'd like to join, please start making plans by booking hotel accommodation now. When the time comes, registration for the Congress itself and choice of lectures could be attended to.

What is Catholicism?: Here's a very insightful summary by Richard McBrien, a well-known theologian and professor. "1. Catholicism is a Christian tradition, a way of life, and a community. 2. The word *Catholic*, derived from the Greek, means "universal." Its opposite is sectarian rather than Protestant. 3. Many non-Catholic Christians insist on the use of the adjective Roman to describe the Church that is in union with Rome, because they also regard themselves as Catholic. But there are Eastern-rite churches that are in union with Rome, and yet are not of the Roman, or Latin, rite. Therefore, the adjective Roman would pertain only to a portion of the Church that is in union with Rome, albeit the largest portion by far. 4. Catholicism is, first of all, a way of being human, then a way of being religious, and then a way of being Christian. Catholicism can only be understood within this wider context. 5. Catholicism is characterized by three principles: sacramentality, mediation, and communion. The special configuration of these three principles within Catholicism constitutes its distinctiveness. It is a tradition that sees God in all things (sacramentality), using the human, the material, and the finite (mediation), to bring about the unity of humankind (communion). 6. Other distinctively Catholic principles include its emphasis on tradition, its regard for reason, its analogical imagination, and its universality, including a both/and rather than an either/or approach to Christian faith and practice."

A Story to Think About: When the holy man reached the outskirts of the village and settled under a tree for the night, a villager came running up to him and said, "The stone! The stone! Give me the precious stone!" "What stone?" asked the holy man. "Last night the Lord told me in a dream that if I went to the outskirts of the village at dusk a holy man would give me a stone that would make me rich forever." The holy man rummaged in his sack and, pulling out a stone, he said, "He probably meant this one. I found it in the forest yesterday. Here, it's yours if you want it." The man gazed at the stone in wonder. It was the largest diamond in the world --- the size of a man's head. All night he tossed about in bed. At break of day he woke the holy man and said, "Give me the wealth that makes it possible for you to give this stone away."

Faith Formation Program: "Go to all the nations and proclaim the good news" is Jesus' command. In Faith Formation we proclaim the good news to the children and through them to their families. Please do as early as possible for 2022-23 year. We also need new Faith Formation teachers. Contact Laurie Digneo, our new coordinator of Faith Formation. We would very much like to grow the numbers of our students. Please help by persuading your 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.

Recommending a Piece of Music and a Poem: The hauntingly beautiful aria "Lascia ch'io pianga" from Handel's opera "Rinaldo" and Elizabeth Bishop's poem "One Art." You could find them easily on youtube or google. If you have checked them out online, and if you have any comments on them, do feel free to share them with me in conversation after a Mass. As you know, the arts and literature are wonderful ways we can experience God and appreciate the beauty of life.

More Pun Jokes:

1. Talk is cheap? Have you ever talked to a lawyer?
2. Why did the gym close down? It just didn't work out!
3. How do poets say hello? Hey, haven't we metaphor?
4. Why is it annoying to eat next to basketball players? They dribble all the time.
5. What breed of dog can jump higher than buildings? Any dog, because buildings can't jump.
6. How many times can you subtract 10 from 100? Once. The next time you would be subtracting 10 from 90.
7. Why aren't koalas actual bears? They don't meet the koalafications.

Wishing you God's continued blessings of summer,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota