

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

August 7, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

My Personal Retreat at San Damiano, Danville: July 17 through 22, I made my private retreat at the Franciscan Retreat Center, San Damiano, in Danville. It was a time of silence, reflection, and prayer. I was reminded of Jesus being away from his active ministry, by himself, to pray and discern his Father's will. San Damiano, as you may know, is named for the small dilapidated church in Assisi in which Jesus spoke from the cross to the young man Francis and told him to "repair my church." The retreat center in Danville spoke eloquently of the spirit of St. Francis. The afternoon of Sunday, after our own parish Mass here, when I arrived at San Damiano, coincidentally, there was a fundraising event for the retreat center called "Wine and Jazz Party." The Franciscan center staff invited me to join the party in the courtyard. There were about 100 people present. The jazz band consisted of about 30 people. It was most enjoyable to hear the soul-filling music and partake of the delicious hors d'oeuvres. It seemed as if a joyful prelude to my retreat which I began that evening. The retreat center is located on a beautiful hill and is nestled in the forests, endowed with a few trails for the quiet walks and prayer. The deer running around was a common sight.

I celebrated Mass every day in the cozy chapel and made my Stations of the Cross every day in the wooded area. The porcelain stations of the cross were created years ago by a sculptor from Napoli, Italy. These stations, fitted with lights for night use, if needed, are surrounded by the trees and overlooking the valley. The staff at the retreat house were most hospitable. On the last day, after I completed the retreat, some of our parishioners, at my invitation, visited me. I was happy to give them a guided tour of the place. We as a group prayed in the chapel and also prayed the Stations of the Cross and then went out to have lunch. All in all, the retreat was a time away to be with God in a special setting, a time for renewal and rejuvenation, a time to reflect on my calling and mission, and a time to pray for our parish. I'd recommend this retreat center to you, if ever you are thinking about making a retreat. If a group of our parishioners are interested, we could go there for two or three days of retreat and I would be happy to lead the group through the spiritual exercises.

Congratulations to Legion of Mary!: On the occasion of the centenary celebration of the Legion of Mary---founded by Frank Duff in Dublin, Ireland, in 1921 as a Marian movement and a lay Catholic organization---we shall have a special participation of the members of Legion of Mary at the 9:30 a.m. Mass this Sunday. I would like to thank and congratulate the members of this spiritual organization. If anyone would like to join this group, please do contact the parish office. The group meets each Monday in the Church at 5:00 p.m. To rejoice with the Legion of Mary, everyone at the 9:30 a.m. Mass this Sunday would be invited to light refreshments in Cantwell Hall. Please do join.

Faith Formation: Please do encourage your children and grandchildren to be enrolled in our Faith Formation program. Also, if anyone is interested in serving as catechists, please contact the parish office.

Thank You to the Music Ministers in our Parish: I would like to thank Judy Labaria and Carmelita Ouano for the beautiful music they provide at the 4:30 p.m. every Saturday vigil Mass. Also, my deep gratitude to Richard and Marycon Padua, Carmelita Ouano, Jun Madriaga, and their wonderful choir in providing music at the 9:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday. Their ministry is much appreciated. I'm glad that the 9:30 a.m. choir is also emerging as a group of friends, enjoying each other's company and the food.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) Gratitude Dinner: As you know, we made the goal. We shall meet on September 11 in Cantwell Hall, for me to be able to thank all those who generously donated 1% and more to AAA and to celebrate our community, enjoy each other's company and get to know one another.

Quotable Quote: "What lies behind you and what lies in front of you pales in comparison to what lies inside of you."---Ralph Waldo Emerson.

A Story to Ponder: A man began to give large doses of cod-liver oil to his Doberman because he had been told that the stuff was good for dogs. Each day he would hold the head of the protesting dog between his knees, force its jaws open and pour the liquid down its throat. One day the dog broke loose and spilt the oil on the floor. Then, to the man's great surprise, it returned to lick the spoon. That is when he discovered that what the dog had been fighting was not the oil but his method of administering it.

Humor:

1. Judge: "What's your age." Convict: "Twenty-two, sir." Judge: "That's what you've been telling us for the last ten years." Convict: "That's right, sir. I'm not the type that says one thing today and another tomorrow."
2. Old actress: "I really don't know my age. It keeps changing from minute to minute."
3. Little girl at fruit store with a banana peel in her hand: "What is it you want, darling?" said the vendor. "A refill," was the reply.
4. A Mother Superior, while travelling on a plane, was offered a cigarette by a fellow passenger. The witty nun, as affable as ever, said, "No, thanks. One habit is enough for me."
5. Why was Adam a famous runner? Because in the human race he was first.

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota