

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

August 14, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Not a holy day of obligation this year: August 15th --- Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM: In the Catholic imagination, Mary our Blessed Mother occupies a vitally prominent role. She is the mother of Jesus. She brought the savior and redeemer into the world. Her role, therefore, is extremely significant. In the gospels we see that she was filled with grace, that she said yes to God, that she listened to God's word and observed it, and that she was at the foot of the cross. There was no one closer to the mystery of Jesus than our Blessed Mother. Because of her momentous role in the history of our salvation, because she is the mother of God's own son, she was protected from sin and decay from the moment of conception (when Mary's mother conceived her in her womb) until the end of her earthly journey. The Catholic way of viewing her last moment in this world is that she did not die, but she slept into eternal life by being assumed into heaven. Her soul was never tainted by sin; her body was never stained by decay. She was gloriously assumed into heaven and crowned queen of heaven. She is our tenderhearted mother who always wants us to be happy and love Jesus her son. The same way she is mother to Jesus, she is our mother. What a privilege it is! Let's celebrate the feast of the Assumption of our BVM with great joy, faith, and gratitude. The BVM is "our tainted nature's solitary boast," says Wordsworth.

Quotes on Mary:

"Let us run to Mary, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence."-- Saint Francis de Sales.

"It is impossible to save one's soul without devotion to Mary and without her protection."--Saint Anselm.

"A man is no true Christian if he has no devotion to the Mother of Jesus Christ."--Saint John Eudes.

"In trial or difficulty I have recourse to Mother Mary, whose glance alone is enough to dissipate every fear."--Saint Therese of Lisieux.

"As mariners are guided into port by the shining of a star, so Christians are guided to heaven by Mary."-- Saint Thomas Aquinas.

Memorare: Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Legion of Mary Event Last Sunday August 07: Last Sunday we had a beautiful event connected with 100th Anniversary of Legion of Mary. We celebrated our own parish Legion of Mary members at the Mass and had a meal downstairs in Cantwell Hall. I'd like to thank the Legion of Mary members of our parish and all those who did an excellent job of putting this event together. Thank you to all those who prepared various food items and those who shopped. My special thanks are due to Sharon Soares and Beth Pasco for the overall organization of this memorable event. I would like to propose, if you are interested, that once a month, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass, we could have hospitality in Cantwell Hall, with coffee, donuts, and other snacks. We could begin this on a humble note and if there are enough people who would like to attend and volunteer, we could even have it twice a month. Do give me your thoughts on this.

My 33rd Ordination Anniversary on Friday August 19: Please keep me in your prayers on this day. The call to follow Christ through the ministerial priesthood continues and to be the shepherd and servant-leader at St. Elizabeth Parish at this present time. Thank you for your love, affection, thoughtfulness, and collaboration. Thank you also for your faith and service, which is an inspiration to me. Let's together continue to build up God's Kingdom here at our own parish. Let's keep growing in love of God and neighbor, in service, selflessness, gentleness, kindness, generosity, peace, and joy. The Opening Prayer in the Roman Missal "On the Anniversary of His Ordination" captures my sentiments perfectly: "*Holy Father, who, by no merit of my own, chose me for communion with the eternal priesthood of your Christ and for the ministry of your Church, grant that I may be an ardent yet gentle preacher of the Gospel and a faithful steward of your mysteries.*" Please see on the back page a picture from the day of my Ordination.

A Poem to think about: "If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain; If I can ease one life the aching, Or cool one pain, Or help one fainting robin Unto his nest again, I shall not live in vain." --- Emily Dickinson

Dr. Seuss' Insightfully Funny Quotes:

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose."

"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

"Why fit in where you were born to stand out?"

"If you never did, you should. These things are fun, and fun is good."

"Think and wonder. Wonder and think."

"You are you. Now isn't that pleasant."

"From there to here, and here to there. Funny things are everywhere."

"Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple."

"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if you only try."

Warm Welcome: To Bishop Jose Cabantan from the Diocese of Cagayan de Oro City in Mindanao, Philippines. He will celebrate Mass at 8:30am on August 15th at our church.

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota