

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

August 28, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Clothes Drive for the Poor in the Philippines: Please see below an appeal from a pastor, Fr. Datoy, from the Philippines, who was recently with Archbishop Cabantan while he celebrated Mass on August 15 at our parish. Father Datoy is seeking clothes and shoes for his indigenous parishioners. If you are able to donate to this charitable cause, we shall collect them all and send them to the person responsible for transporting them to Fr. Datoy's parish. We shall run this drive for ONE MONTH till the end of September. Please donate only "new or slightly used" clothes and shoes.

"I am Fr. Eleuterio Datoy, a Pastor of San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish in Malagana, Claveria, Misamis, Oriental, under the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro City in Mindanao, Philippines. I have 11,000 members of my Parish with 24 chapels and 6 Barangays. They are mostly Catholics and most of them are Indigenous people HIGAONON TRIBES. The basic needs are new or slightly used clothing and shoes. May I ask your generosity to help them. I have benefactors who are willing to send them to the Philippines. I am grateful to Fr. Charles Puthota, Pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish, who encouraged me to appeal to your generous Parish."

Synod-Related Survey Conversation: Richard John, Antonia Velasco and I met last Sunday to talk about the survey results. It was felt that our spiritual, liturgical, and social life in the parish is being nourished well. Our liturgical celebrations are back to where they need to be after the Covid-related interruptions. We have a total of about 225 people attending our two weekend Masses. Our daily Mass is strong with about 30 to 40 people attending, with Liturgy of the Hours (morning prayer) prayed by about 12 to 15 people on a daily basis. I'm edified by this group who do the Church's morning prayer faithfully. I have always encouraged those who are retired and live in the neighborhood to fit the Mass into their daily schedule, if possible. It would always be an uplifting experience to begin the day with Mass. We also mentioned the kind of "core group" who come to daily Mass and are generous in their time and talents for the Community. I'm grateful to this faithful group that is active and engaged in the life of the parish. We looked at the social life in the parish. Some of the parish events recently (Parish Consultors Meeting, Legion of Mary event, Bishop Cabantan visit, etc), not to mention the choir socializing often before their practices, add the dimension of friendships in our parish community. I would like to thank the Paduas and their team for fostering the spirit of joy and collaboration. We continue doing the baptisms in the Rectory chapel. Our faith formation program could be expanded with more students. We have been having concerns about how to secure our buildings and parking lot. There have been some incidents of a breach of our property. The generosity of volunteers in our parish is amazing. I'm grateful for all the blessings of God on our parish. If you have any suggestions for how we could keep deepening our faith and our friendships, please do let me know.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) Gratitude Dinner: Sunday September 11 the 1% Circle will gather for a sumptuous catered dinner. Several weeks ago, I had sent you the invitations to this event and I'm hoping everyone invited has RSVPed already. This is to celebrate our connection with the Archdiocese and our successful project to raise the AAA amount within a short period of time. This year we completed our goal within eight weeks (two months). Please would you keep donating generously and promptly to AAA each year?

Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion (EMHC) Training: Saturday, September 24 will be the training for EMHC. Those attending will gather for the 8:30 a.m. Mass and then start our sessions in Cantwell Hall. Contact person is Sharon Soares. Please leave a message for her at the parish office.

Word of God: Humility is the theme of the Word of God this 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. "My child, conduct your affairs with humility...Humble yourself the more, the greater you are..." says the first reading from Sirach. In the gospel from Luke, Jesus challenges those who seek places of honor and invites us to "go and take the lowest place..." One of the paradoxes Jesus insists on throughout the gospels is that the last will be the first and that those who humble themselves will be exalted. Jesus also urges us that we need to invite to meals "the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind: blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." We can explore our hearts and minds to see if we practice the virtue of humility in a habitual, daily basis. Humility is based on self-knowledge and truth. In our relationship with God and one another, we are completely dependent on God and interdependent in our families and communities. Humility grounds us in how we see ourselves in relation to God and others. We are not the center of the universe!

Back to School Jokes:

1. Little Johnny had finished his summer vacation and gone back to school. Two days later his teacher phoned his mother to tell her that he was misbehaving. "Wait a minute," she said. "I had Johnny with me for three months and I never called you once when he misbehaved."
2. A wise schoolteacher sends this note to all parents on the first day of school: "If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he says happens at home."
3. Little Johnny wasn't getting good marks in school. One day he surprised the teacher with an announcement. He tapped her on the shoulder and said, "I don't want to scare you, but my daddy says if I don't start getting better grades...somebody is going to get a spanking!"

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota