

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

September 18, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Clothes Drive till end of September 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."

Faith Formation: Classes started last Saturday September 10. I visited the classes and spoke to the teachers and students. This Saturday Sept. 17, I'm looking forward to speaking to the parents. Sharing of faith applies not only to students but also to whole families as we strive to inspire them toward the process of new evangelization.

Catechetical Sunday: This Sunday September 18 is Catechetical Sunday with the theme: "This is my body given for you" (Luke 22:19). Handing on faith and bearing witness to the Gospel are the calling of every baptized Christian. The theme hints at how important the Eucharist is in the life of the Church. In gathering together week after week, day after day, to break the bread, we keep emerging anew as the followers of Christ. We shall be commissioning those designated as catechists in our parish community this Sunday.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) Thank You Dinner: I would like to thank those volunteers who worked so hard in making the Thank You Dinner a most enjoyable one last Sunday September 11 in parish Cantwell Hall. The food was delicious, the company was great. Phil, Dave, Richard, Fred, Ron, Patti, Saydha, Dan, Sr. Olga, and their teams worked together for the success of this dinner. To all those who donated "1% and More," again a big thank-you! Ron Borg and I spoke to highlight the vision of AAA and to thank our parish donors whose generosity helped reach our goal within two months early in the year. There are always the side benefits. As we work on this annual fundraiser and as we put all the details together for a dinner like this, we actually grow in the spirit of friendship and build up the body of Christ in our own parish community.

Italian Catholic Federation (ICF) Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center: I was one of the 40 people who attended the ICF luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center Friday, September 09. They came from different parishes. Mary and Eva Perata and their team organized this event with an impeccable attention to details. It was an enjoyable afternoon indeed.

Short Insightful Quotes:

1. "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." -Benjamin Franklin.
2. "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart." -Helen Keller.
3. "It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light." -Aristotle.
4. "Whoever is happy will make others happy too." -Anne Frank.
5. "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." -Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The Word of God: The message of the Gospel this Sunday is not the dishonesty of the steward but his resourcefulness in dealing with the situation, which, in his case, is a crisis! Jesus wants us also to use our imagination and resourcefulness in dealing with all kinds of circumstances in life. How can we face life and all its challenges with faith, courage, and grace? That's a big question. When we like certain things like sports or travel or hobbies, we are really engaged in getting them done. We spend our time, money, and energy to ensure that we can enjoy those interests. Jesus' parable raises questions about those things that are even more important in life: happiness, harmony, faith, peace, fulfillment, service, love, strength. These are all qualities that we need to spend our resources and resourcefulness on, and yet it's possible that we may be neglecting to develop and grow these gifts. Let's think about it and respond to the call of Jesus: Come follow me.

A Story to Ponder: Once upon a time the members of the body were very annoyed with the stomach. They were resentful that they had to procure food and bring it to the stomach while the stomach itself did nothing but devour the fruit of their labor. So they decided they would no longer bring the stomach food. The hands would not lift it to the mouth. The teeth would not chew it; the throat would not swallow it. That would force the stomach into doing something. But all they succeeded in doing was make the body weak to the point that they were all threatened with death. So it was finally they who learned the lesson that in helping one another they were really working for their own welfare.

Humor:

1. A genie and an idiot: Three guys stranded on a desert island find a magic lantern containing a genie, who grants them each one wish. The first guy wishes he was off the island and back home. The second guy wishes the same. The third guy says: 'I'm lonely. I wish my friends were back here.'
2. Off to work: A guy shows up late for work. The boss yells, 'You should've been here at 8.30!' He replies. 'Why? What happened at 8.30?'
3. Snail with an attitude: A guy is sitting at home when he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door and sees a snail on the porch. He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can. Three years later there's a knock on the door. He opens it and sees the same snail. The snail says: 'What the heck was that all about?'

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota