

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

September 25, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Divine Office--Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m.: Every day at 8:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday we have the Morning Prayer, which is the Prayer of the Universal Church. It's also called Divine Office or the Liturgy of the Hours. About 15 people attend this regularly. I am edified by the earnestness and dedication of the group. As you know, this beautiful and uplifting form of prayer is purely scripture-based. If anyone else is interested in joining this prayer, please do let me know. You'd love it, and we'd love to have you. If you are retired, it might be convenient to join this prayer and the Mass daily. I think our parish is a perfect place to introduce this prayer and the response from the dedicated participants inspires and amazes me. I'm so grateful!

Catechetical Sunday, September 18: At the 9:30 a.m. Mass last Sunday, we commissioned the catechists from our Faith Formation program for another year of catechetical work, which is to hand on faith and be witnesses to the gospel. The names of our catechists are: Richard John, Cipriano Peneyra, Maria Oropeza, Francisca Oropeza, Mike Walsh, Laurrie Digneo (also Faith Formation Coordinator), and Patti Spiteri (Parish Pastoral Coordinator). I would like to thank them for the excellent work they do in teaching and sharing faith. It is one of the most important things we do in our parish. Young people need to be urgently introduced to the matters of faith, especially in the context of rampant secularization. May the teachers and catechists in our parish be filled with the Spirit of Christ and wisely lead our students toward the things that matter. The theme of this year's Catechetical Sunday is: "This is my Body given for you" (Luke 22:19). This theme highlights the importance and centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the Church. Let's encourage our children and their families to come to the Eucharist as frequently as possible. Attendance at weekend Masses (Saturday Vigil and Sunday) is crucial to our faith, spilling over into all that we do in our families and workplaces. The choices we make and all dimensions of our social, cultural lives are enlightened by the Eucharist where we hear God's Word and are united in the Body of Christ, missioned to "proclaim the Good News to all the nations."

Maltese Champagne Bingo: Last Sunday, September 18, at noon this well-organized event by the Maltese Society of the Parish took place. There were 120 people in attendance. The food and champagne were delicious, the company and conversation were enjoyable, and the Bingo was fun. I would like to congratulate and thank Jeanette Santos and team for putting on a fun event. We need more such social events in our parish. Such gatherings have a way of building up the community. What we do upstairs (in the Church at Mass and prayer) and what we do downstairs (in Cantwell Hall with food and friendships) are essential for the life of the parish.

A Verse to Enjoy: "To see a World in a Grain of Sand / And a Heaven in a Wild Flower, / Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand / And Eternity in an hour." --- William Blake.

Word of God: This 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the gospel from Luke 16 gives the haunting story of the rich man and Lazarus. The teachings of Jesus speak a lot about wealth and how we must relate to it, lest it become a hindrance to our true happiness, peace, and fulfillment. There is a close relationship between this life and the life to come. The rich man seemed to have everything in life but eternal life. Lazarus didn't seem to have anything in life but his ultimate fulfillment with God. The things that we own --- do they help us or hinder us? Do they bring happiness or sadness? Are we able to share our blessings with others, especially those in need? Do we work for those riches that no one can steal and nothing can destroy? "What does it profit to gain the whole world but to lose your soul?" Wisdom requires that we steer through all our possessions as if they were water on the lotus leaf. If they stick to us, then we are not free to be happy. If they don't stick to us, we are like the birds soaring high in the sky, riding the wind and making huge carefree circles of flight in joy and freedom.

A Story to Ponder: A prisoner lived in solitary confinement for years. He saw and spoke to no one and his meals were served through an opening in the wall. One day an ant came into his cell. The man contemplated it in fascination as it crawled around the room. He held it in the palm of his hand the better to observe it, gave it a grain or two, and kept it under his tin cup at night. One day it suddenly struck him that it had taken him ten long years of solitary confinement to open his eyes to the loveliness of an ant.

Funny Sayings:

"My wife says I'm too competitive. I told her I already knew that."

"My room may be a mess, but I know where everything is."

"Life is too short to be serious all the time. So if you can't laugh at yourself, call me ... I'll laugh at you."

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken." --- Oscar Wilde.

"Silence is golden, unless you have kids. Then silence is just plain suspicious."

"The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits." --- Einstein.

"Diet Rule #1: If nobody sees you eating it, it doesn't contain any calories."

"If only common sense were more common."

"Yes, of course, I'm athletic ... I surf the internet every day."

"Could you be as silent as the g in lasagna?"

"I thought about losing weight once, but I don't like losing."

"I get enough exercise just by pushing my luck." "Smiles are contagious. Be a carrier."

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota