

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

October 2, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Some Important, Inspirational Feasts Early October:

St. Therese of the Child Jesus: October 01st is the feast of one of the most influential young saints: St. Therese of the Child Jesus, also known as St. Therese of Lisieux. She was only 15 when she joined the Carmelites and 24 when she died, but she is celebrated all over the world as co-patron of the missions along with St. Francis Xavier, even though she never left the four walls of the convent in Lisieux, France. Three insights from her life are relevant for us today. One, she considered herself a “little flower.” We do not have to be the important “flowers” in the garden of God, but God is happy with the little ones too. God looks on the little, unimportant, insignificant people too with amazing love and care. Being humble and self-effacing is completely acceptable to God, even pleasing to him. Two, The Little way: we do not have to achieve earth-shattering things; all God wants us to do is to put our love and energy into all the little things we need to do on a daily basis. We are to do ordinary things in an extraordinary way. Three, Therese saw her name “T” written in the Orion’s constellation. She was convinced her name was written in heaven. Our names too! God has chosen us from all eternity for everlasting life. Our lives came from God and belong to God and return to God. So let’s live and love in a manner worthy of our mission and our final destiny.

Feast of the Guardian Angels: October 02nd is the feast of the Guardian Angels, though this year, as it falls on a Sunday we do not celebrate it liturgically. As you know, Sunday liturgy takes precedence over the feast day liturgies. The feast of the Guardian angels is a reminder to us that each of us is given an angel to protect and guide us all our lives. God’s presence and love are given to us through the guardian angels who lead us to God. If we could only listen to these guardian angels, how different our lives would be!

Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi: October 04th is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of our city by the Bay, San Francisco. If there were just a few people who would practice Christianity as Francis did, the world would be completely transformed. Christianity is most appealingly exemplified and demonstrated in Francis. Francis’ simplicity, poverty, humility, faith, love of other religions, love of all creation, love of Christ --- all these inspire us to become more authentic human beings and Christians. Our Pope, who has taken on the name of St. Francis, is helping make the spirituality of the saint concrete for us by the values and vision he shares with the Church and the world.

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary: October 07 we celebrate this feast. Because of this feast, the whole month of October is traditionally considered the month of the Rosary. Mary our mother, close to her Son and us, is the most powerful intercessor. All she wants is that we do whatever her son tells us to do, as at Cana. You may be aware that some other religions use beads to pray repetitive prayers. Our Catholic practice helps us to focus on the mysteries of the Rosary as we keep repeating the prayers, thus experiencing a deepening of the sense of prayerfulness, a sense of closeness to God, a sense of calm and peace in our hearts. Apart from praying the Rosary individually in Church or while travelling or with the family, I personally find the Rosary the best prayer before falling asleep. Reflecting on the 20 mysteries (Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous) could bring a sense of peace and calm in us, helping us sleep and get good rest. You might want to try it!

May these saints and angels whose feasts we celebrate early October be close to us, speak to us, and turn our lives toward God and one another in love and service.

Concluding Clothes Drive for the Poor in the Philippines: We bring this drive to a conclusion at the end of September. Thank you for all those who donated the new or slightly used clothes, shoes, etc. I would like to thank our sacristans for receiving them and storing them and Sr. Olga Cristobal for working with the person who will be forwarding these items to the poor in the Philippines.

Training of Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion (Ems) : On Saturday September 24, I was honored to lead a training session for 18 of our parishioners who are eager to become the Ems to serve our parish. I reflected with them on the theology and spirituality of the Eucharist and the centrality of the celebration of the Eucharist in the life of the Church. We went over the reading materials on being a Eucharistic Minister. We also looked at the practical aspects of being a EM and practiced how to actually do this important ministry. Congrats and thanks to all who attended and a special thanks to Sharon Soares, Phil McCarthy, Dave Gemignani and Richard John for all their excellent work of coordination and arrangements. The potluck was enjoyable.

Quotable Quote: "True love comes quietly, without banners or flashing lights. If you hear bells, get your ears checked." --- Erich Segal.

Humor:

1. A man was standing in front of the bathroom mirror one evening admiring his reflection, when he posed this question to his wife of 30 years: "Will you still love me when I'm old, fat, and balding?" She answered: "I do."
2. Teacher: "What are the harmful environmental effects of oil on fish?" Student: "When my mom opened a can of sardines last night, it was full of oil and all the sardines were dead."
3. They were in a restaurant, perusing the menu, when she let her husband know that he rarely paid attention to her when she spoke. Well, of course, he disagreed, so they went back to reading their menus in chilly silence. After a few uncomfortable minutes, she said, "I think I'm getting a headache." He responded, "Go ahead, sweetheart; get whatever you want."

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota