

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

February 12, 2023



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) 2023: The amount to raise is \$37,462. 1.33% Donation is \$500. Please see in the bulletin the names of those who have donated so far to AAA 2023. The asterisk indicates the 1.33% donors. Last weekend (February 04-05) we launched this annual appeal, a monthlong drive. I preached at both weekend Masses, connecting the Word of God about being light and salt. The reason for this campaign is simple: the Archdiocese is entrusted with a mission to preach the good news and to provide all necessary ministries and services to the parishes within the Archdiocese. Without our assistance, at the Archdiocesan level they could not be doing what they are called to do. So we feel privileged to help and collaborate in their work. Also, let us keep in mind that we are not apart from the Archdiocese. We, our parish and all other parishes, make up the Archdiocese. When we strengthen the Archdiocese, we are actually strengthening our own St. Elizabeth Parish. So please give generously and early so that we can complete this campaign within a month. Would it be possible for you to belong to "1.33% Circle" by donating \$500 or more toward AAA? Some of you have given in the past way more than 1.33%. Your spirit of stewardship and generous donations are much appreciated. Please would you keep St. Elizabeth Parish and the Archdiocese as your Number One charity to support because we are an integral and inseparable part of these faith-based, nonprofit communities that stand for life now and life eternal.

Season of Lent is Near: Ash Wednesday is on February 22: We could start the anticipation of this holy, penitential season by thinking about our plans for prayer and penance. We could actually think about the three aspects of our existence: Body, Mind, and Spirit. What is it that the Lord is calling us to be? What are the things we could do to nourish and protect the health of our body, mind, and spirit?

Pope Francis' Apostolic Visit to Two African Nations: Last week, From January 31 to February 05, the Holy Father Pope Francis visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC, formerly known as Zaire) and South Sudan. In both countries, the Roman Catholics make up about half of the populations. Rich in natural resources, these countries have been plagued by long-standing conflicts that have resulted in millions of refugees and displaced people facing hunger. The Catholic Church is a key player in health and educational systems as well as in democracy-building efforts. In South Sudan, the Pope was joined by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Iain Greenshield. Welby remarked: "This will be a historic visit. After centuries of division, leaders of three different parts of Christianity are coming together in an unprecedented way." A group of 60 Catholic pilgrims spent nine days trekking through war-torn South Sudan to see Pope Francis in the capital, Juba. "My feet are sore, but I am not so tired. When the spirit is with you, you do not get tired," NightRose Falea, one of the pilgrims, said as she licked her cracked, dry lips. "I would not have missed coming to Juba for anything. We are here to get the Pope's blessings. I am confident that with his blessings things will change for this country," she told a reporter. The Holy Father urged people in South Sudan to reject the "venom of hatred" and told them to lose no opportunity to build peace. He pleaded with the country's leaders to focus on ending conflict. Before leaving, he told the crowd: "Dear brothers and sisters, I return to Rome with you even closer to my heart." Peace and reconciliation were the major themes of the pastoral visit of the Pope to these two nations. Let's keep these nations and many other troubled spots of the world in our prayers. May there be peace, harmony, reconciliation everywhere!

Food for Thought: Husband: "I'm going to work hard, and some day we are going to be rich." Wife: "We are rich already, dear, for we have each other. Some day we may have money."

Quotable Quote: "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." -*Mother Teresa*

A Story to Think About: A miser hid his gold at the foot of a tree in his garden. Every week he would dig up and look at it for hours. One day a thief dug up the gold and made off with it. When the miser next came to gaze upon his treasure all he found was an empty hole. The man began to howl with grief so his neighbors came running to find out what the trouble was. When they found out one of them asked, "Did you use any of the gold?" "No," said the miser. "I only looked at it every week." "Well, then," said the neighbor, "for all the good the gold did you, you might just as well come every week and gaze upon the hole." It is not by our money but by our capacity for enjoyment that we are rich or poor. (TSOTB, ADM)

Retirement Humor:

1. **The perfect answering service recording:** "I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."

2. **"I'm 103 years old."** A reporter was interviewing a 103-year-old woman. "And what do you think is the best thing about being 103?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

Your Friend and Pastor

Fr. Charles Puthota