

# From the Pastor's Desktop

## A Message from Father Charles Puthota

March 5, 2023



**Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,**

**Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA): Goal: \$37,462. 1.33% is \$500. Please give early and generously. See the names of donors in the bulletin.** We have done four weeks of campaign. Sandra Abranches and Sharon Soares spoke persuasively at the two Masses last weekend, calling everyone to give to AAA. My thanks are due to them both. I thank all those who have donated to AAA so far. I also thank those who are able to give 1.33% and more of the total amount of AAA for this year. We have quite a distance to go before we can complete our goal. We still need everyone to participate. To those of you who have not given so far, I appeal to you to please consider it prayerfully. Please keep in mind: what AAA stands for is nothing less than the mission of Jesus Christ carried out by the Archdiocese of San Francisco. As disciples and followers of Christ, it's not only our duty but also a joyful privilege to support the mission of Jesus. "Go to all the nations and preach the good news" is the mandate of Christ, which is being carried out in our Archdiocese. Our participation in AAA is a sign of our participation in this noble mission. May I, therefore, call on everyone at St. Elizabeth Parish to help reach our goal of \$37,462 as early as possible?

### **The Season of Lent: What shall we give up for Lent?**

Give up complaining – – focus on gratitude.  
Give up pessimism – – become an optimist.  
Give up harsh judgments – – think kindly thoughts.  
Give up worry – – trust Divine Providence.  
Give up discouragement – – be full of hope.  
Give up bitterness – – turn to forgiveness.  
Give up hatred – – return good for evil.  
Give up negativism – – be positive.  
Give up anger – – be more patient.  
Give up pettiness – – become mature.  
Give up gloom – – enjoy the beauty all around you.  
Give up jealousy – – pray for trust.  
Give up gossiping – – control your tongue.  
Give up sin – – turn to virtue.  
Give up giving up – – hang in there!

**Lenten Retreat: On Friday March 17 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass and the Stations of the Cross.** I'll be presenting the sessions on the theme of Spirituality. It will cover the meaning of Spirituality, its historical development, and the various practices of spirituality. Come, join, if you can! \$15 for registration fee. Includes coffee & donuts and lunch. Such events have a side benefit: they build up friendships and community.

**Word of God: Second Sunday of Lent:** Last Sunday we reflected on the temptation and sin of the first parents and the temptations of Jesus which he resisted successfully in the desert. This weekend, the Word of God is about the call of Abraham in the first reading and the transfiguration of Jesus in Matthew's gospel. Receiving God's call and promises, Abraham moved toward where God was leading him. The theme of the call is found also in the second reading from the letter to Timothy: "He saved us and called us to a holy life..." Jesus's transfiguration is a milestone in the public ministry of Jesus as he hears his Father's call and affirmation: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." The Father's call for Jesus entails suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus will now move inexorably toward the cross in Jerusalem. During Lent, we too travel with Jesus, through various observances of prayer and penance, toward the cross and ultimately to Easter, when Jesus will rise victoriously, fulfilling the promise of fullness of life for us. We could reflect and pray along the lines of how God in Jesus is calling us out of our situations to go to another "place," to another way of living and loving, to another way of seeing and feeling, to another way of fulfilling our human destiny. In the process, the "beloved Son" walks with us and speaks to us. We are to listen to him and make the choices in light of that listening. Are we ready? Are we willing? Are we adventurous?

**A Story to Ponder:** True philosopher that he was, Socrates believed that the wise person would instinctively lead a frugal life. He himself would not even wear shoes; yet he constantly fell under the spell of the marketplace and would go there often to look at all the wares on display. When one of his friends asked why, Socrates said, "I love to go there and discover how many things I am perfectly happy without." Spirituality is not knowing what you want but understanding what you do not need.

**Quotable Quote:** "Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next door neighbor... Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting." - Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

**Joke: Abraham's computer:** Abraham bought himself a fancy new computer. He was showing it to Isaac one day. "Look at all the wonderful programs it has on it. And look at all the neat things it can do..." Isaac was impressed, but a little concerned... "But dad, I don't think your computer has enough memory." Abraham said "Don't worry son; the Lord will provide the RAM."

Wishing you a blessed season of Lent,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota