

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

May 14, 2023



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Easter Reflection: These days of Easter, the gospel anecdotes about the risen Christ have one thing in common: the apostles and others to whom Jesus appear do not easily recognize Jesus. It takes time for them to awaken into the identity of Jesus. Jesus does all sorts of gentle and kind things to encourage them into the reality of his resurrection. Mary Magdalene, for example, thinks that Jesus is a gardener. Others at times think that he is a ghost. The two Emmaus disciples do not recognize him. Something keeps their eyes from recognizing him. They finally see him as Jesus only in the breaking of the bread, though their hearts were burning when he interpreted the scriptures. At the resurrection of Jesus, something is the same, something is different. He is a new being. He can appear inside the locked rooms. His He has body but his body is so different that they cannot see him as Jesus immediately: they are startled and terrified. Those who were very close to him go through this situation again and again. What about us? Over 2000 years later, can we recognize the risen Christ? Can we be adventurous enough to try to remove all sorts of obstacles that prevent us from recognizing him, loving him, and following him here and now?

Three Sacraments of Our Faith Formation Children---Congratulations: On Saturday February 25, five of our Faith Formation children made the First Reconciliation and on Sunday May 07 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, the same children made the First Holy Communion. Also, seven of our students made their Confirmation on Saturday April 29 at the Cathedral at a Mass I concelebrated with Archbishop Cordileone. These are great blessings for the families and our parish community. Congratulations to the students and the families! Also, my gratitude to our Faith Formation coordinator Laurrie Digneo, Pastoral Coordinator Patti Spiteri and the teacher-catechists Mike Walsh and Fran Oropeza.

Word of God This Sixth Sunday of Easter: The Risen Christ this Easter season speaks to us about loving and keeping his commandments in the Gospel. In a moment of Trinitarian revelation, Jesus speaks of his father and the Holy Spirit the Advocate. The mystery is that we are all in Jesus and in the Father and the Spirit and the Trinitarian persons are in each other. That's how intimate our relationship with God is. This is the reason for our hope, as we read in the second reading from Peter: "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope..." This is done well by Phillip in Samaria by proclaiming the good news, healing and driving out the demons.

AAA 1.33% Donors Luncheon---Save the Date: Sunday August 06, thank you-luncheon to 1.33% AAA donors at the Basque Cultural Center at 12:30 p.m.

Happy Mother's Day! On the occasion of Mother's Day this Sunday, may I have the honor of wishing all mothers, grandmothers, and great grandmothers at St. Elizabeth Parish a Happy Mother's Day? Thank you for being mothers. Thanks to you, we understand what it is to love, nurture, share, and be selfless....The following is for laughing out loud!

Lessons from my Mother: My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE: "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

My mother taught me LOGIC: "Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me MORE LOGIC: "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

My mother taught me FORESIGHT: "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident." My mother taught me IRONY: "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM: "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!" My mother taught me about STAMINA: "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

My mother taught me about WEATHER: "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY: "If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"

My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!"

My mother taught me about ENVY: "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION: "Just wait until we get home."

My mother taught me about RECEIVING: "You are going to get it when you get home!"

My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE: "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."

My mother taught me ESP: "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

My mother taught me HUMOR: "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT: "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

My mother taught me GENETICS: "You're just like your father."

My mother taught me about my ROOTS: "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

My mother taught me WISDOM: "When you get to be my age, you'll understand." And my favorite:

My mother taught me about JUSTICE: "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you."

An Irish blessing for Mother's Day: "There is but one and only one, whose love will fail you never. One who lives from sun to sun, with constant fond endeavor. There is but one and only one on earth, there is no other. In heaven a noble work was done when God gave us a Mother."

Mother's Day Humor: 1. I shouted to my Mom on Mother's Day, "How does breakfast in bed sound?" She said, "Ooh that sounds lovely! I said, "Great, I'll have bacon, fries, and two eggs." 2. Daughter: Mom, what's it like to have the greatest daughter in the world? Mom: I don't know dear, you'd have to ask Grandma. 3. Two children ordered their mother to stay in bed one Mother's Day morning. As she lay there looking forward to breakfast in bed, the smell of bacon floated up from the kitchen. But after a good long wait she finally went downstairs to investigate. She found them both sitting at the table eating bacon and eggs. "As a surprise for Mother's Day," one explained, "We decided to cook our own breakfast." 4. A mother is trying to get her son to eat carrots. "Carrots are good for your eyes," she says. "How do you know?" the son asks. The mother replies, "Have you ever seen a rabbit wearing glasses?" 5. Daughter: Mom, I need my personal space! Mom: You came out of my personal space.

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota