

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

May 28, 2023



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Some Thoughts on Pentecost: This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, the powerful event of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and the multitudes gathered in Jerusalem. It is also known as the birthday of the Church. Do take a look at the Pentecost stained-glass window in our parish church. The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost changed everything in the lives of those who believed in Jesus. The Risen Christ who ascended to the Father is extended in time and space through the magic and mystique of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's coming as we will read this weekend was dramatic, even noisy and boisterous! Some of us may be accustomed to too much quiet, but the Spirit stirs up excitement. As the saying goes, God comforts the disturbed and disturbs the comfortable! The Holy Spirit came with wind and fire! He's going to blow away all our lethargy and complacency, our cynicism and despair. He's going to burn away our selfishness and sinfulness. He will bring warmth to a cold world; he'll bring light to our dark, brooding lives and the world. He turned the feeble apostles paralyzed by fear and hopelessness into fiery apostles capable of unimaginable courage and compassion, energy and passion, faith and trust. The Acts of the Apostles which we read in Easter season, a book about the great transformation and rapid growth of Christianity, is actually a book of the Acts of the Holy Spirit. Life in the Spirit is a lifestyle we are called to. It means that we live not for ourselves but for others; that we live guided not by ourselves but by the power and might of God. All our choices and decisions can be made with the promptings of the Holy Spirit. If we have passion and energy for life, it's the Spirit who gives us these gifts. With great energy, we can love selflessly, serve joyfully, and share generously.

Traditional Prayer to the Holy Spirit: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray. O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of St. Augustine to the Holy Spirit: Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are: Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

Eucharistic Congress on June 10 at the Cathedral: Everyone is encouraged to register and attend the Eucharistic Congress at our Cathedral on Saturday June 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please see the details on the last page of this bulletin. Eucharist, as you know, is at the heart of the life of the Church. It's the Eucharist that brings people of God day after day, week after week, to receive the Body of Christ, and become the body of Christ.

A Story to Ponder: When it was time to name their firstborn, a husband and wife began to quarrel. She wanted to name him after her father; he wanted to name him after his. They finally had recourse to the rabbi to settle their dispute. "What was the name of your father?" the rabbi asked the husband. "Abijah." And what was your father's name?" he asked his wife. "Abijah." "Then what's the problem?" said the confused rabbi. "You see, rabbi," said the woman, "my father was a scholar and his father was a horse-thief. How can I allow my son to be named after a man like that?" The rabbi gave this very serious thought for the problem was indeed a delicate one. He did not want one party to feel it had won and the other that it had lost. So he finally said, "This is what I suggest you do. Call the boy Abijah. Then wait and see if he becomes a scholar or a horse-thief, and you will know after whom he was named."

Faith Formation Graduation Mass: Last Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, which was the last Faith Formation event for 2022-2023, we gave out the certificates to the First Communion and Confirmation students. Please see pictures on the back page. The rest of the students were promoted from one grade to a higher grade. Congratulations, students and teachers, for the fine work done! We look forward to the coming year of Faith Formation. If you have any children or grandchildren, please do admit them in our parish program. We'd love to have them. It's part of the mission of the parish to "make disciples."

Humor: 1. While other people go to church every Sunday morning, Charles, a farmer, likes to sit in the village restaurant drinking wine. One day the priest said to him, "Charles, I'm afraid we shall not see each other in heaven." A worried Charles replied, "But, Father, what on earth have you done?" 2. A guru who claimed he survived on air started a cult. When some skeptics caught him munching a hamburger and french fries, the pseudo-psychic said, "You can't call this food." 3. St. Peter halted a man at the entrance to heaven. "You've told too many lies to be permitted in here," he said. "Have a heart," replied the man. "Remember, you were once a fisherman yourself."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota