

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

July 16, 2023



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Parish Consultors Meeting (PCM): Maltese Society: In this meeting held on June 27, attended by 28 people, various organizations of the parish reported their history and activities. Maltese Society of the parish reported that they have 12 active members who meet once a month. They have organized bus trips and Champagne Bingo. Their annual event is the celebration of the Feast of St. Paul of the Shipwreck, which has been celebrated traditionally at our parish. This celebration is scheduled for Sunday February 4, 2024. The plans are being made already. All those attending this Feast will be invited to that Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m., which will be followed by luncheon and raffle. If you have any ideas about this celebration, you are welcome to pass them on to us.

The Word of God on the Word of God this Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Both the Isaiah and Matthew readings today highlight the power and the fruitfulness of God's Word. Even as rain irrigates and makes the whole world fertile, the Word of God will achieve the results in our lives. The Word of God is compared to a seed sown by the sower. If it falls on the right soil, it will bring about abundant harvest. We are the soil. What kind of soil are we? Are we a shallow soil or rocky ground or thorny patch of land? Do we lack the depth and moisture and warmth in our living? Are we too hard-hearted for God's Word to enter our lives? Are we being choked by the thorns of obsessions, addictions, and undue attachments? Do the present-day interests of political & cultural ideology, sports, entertainment, and technology strain and stifle the spirit of freedom and perspective in our life? Do all these "securities" and comfort-zones prevent us from becoming the good soil for the Word of God to bring about the fruits? This Sunday we cannot miss the invitation to pay closer attention to the Word of God. How does God speak to me in the Bible? Do I reflect on the Bible passages which might especially speak to my situation? When we become aware of God speaking to us in the Bible, we will hopefully learn to become alive to God speaking his Word to us on the Wall Street, the Main Street and the Market Street. Ultimately, we are a "Word people" because Jesus is the Word made Flesh. We are a "Jesus people"; we are his followers and disciples; we are his apostles and messengers. How can we be rooted in that Word that God speaks to us supremely, profoundly, and perfectly in Jesus Christ?

A Slice of St. Elizabeth Parish History: In the 1960's, St. Elizabeth church community grew at such a rate that fund-raising campaign was soon undertaken to construct a new church on the corner of Somerset and Wayland streets. Construction of the new church began in 1960 with Samson Construction Company at the helm. St. Elizabeth's new church was officially dedicated in 1962 by Archbishop John Mitty. The church hall was later re-named in honor of Father Arthur J. Cantwell who served St. Elizabeth from 1942 thru 1970. The hall has been used for parish activities, festivals, athletic events, etc. At present, the Hall is shared with Alta Vista School on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Religious Joke: A pious man, who had reached the age of 105, suddenly stopped going to synagogue. Alarmed by the old fellow's absence after so many years of faithful attendance, the Rabbi went to see him. He found him in excellent health, so the Rabbi asked, "How come after all these years we don't see you at services anymore?" The old man lowered his voice. "I'll tell you, Rabbi," he whispered. "When I got to be 90, I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105. So, I figured that God is very busy and must've forgotten about me, and I don't want to remind Him!"

Short Quotes: 1. "We need much less than we think we need." – Maya Angelou. 2. "If things go wrong, don't go with them." – Roger Babson. 3. "Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it." – Confucius. 4. "There is no way to happiness. Happiness is the way." – Thich Nhat Hanh. 5. "Every man dies. Not every man lives." – William Wallace. 6. "Don't let yesterday take up too much of today." – Will Rogers. 7. "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken." – Oscar Wilde. 8. "Whatever you are, be a good one." – Abraham Lincoln. 9. "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication." – Leonardo da Vinci. 10. "Creativity is intelligence having fun." – Albert Einstein.

A Story to Ponder: Holiness in the Present Moment: A holy man was once asked, "What makes a person holy?" He replied, "Every hour is divided into a certain number of seconds and every second into a certain number of fractions. Anyone who is able to be totally present in each fraction of a second is holy." A Japanese warrior was captured and thrown into prison. At night he could not sleep for he was convinced he would be tortured next morning. Then the words of his Master came to him: "Tomorrow is not real. The only reality is now." So he came to the present – and fell asleep. *The person over whom the Future has lost its grip: How like the birds of the air and the lilies of the field! No anxieties for the morrow. Total presence in the now.*

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota