

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

October 8, 2023



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Synod on Synodality: Thy Synod is now meeting this October 4 through 29 in the Vatican. The theme is: Communion, Participation, Mission. Let's keep the synod meetings in our hearts and prayers. May the Holy Spirit guide all their dialogues and deliberations. We need to explore ways of relating the Church to the world of today and the world to the Church. We are called to proclaim the good news to the world of the 21st century. Tradition and creative fidelity guided by the Spirit of Christ are urgently needed. According to *America* magazine, the synod will have 365 full members, including the Holy Father who is president of the synod. Among the full members are 54 women. The total number of participants at the synod, however, is 464, of whom 81 are women. This number includes experts and fraternal delegates. 61 experts and facilitators will not have a vote at the synod. There will be some participants from other churches. Prior to the Synod, from September 30 through October 03, a retreat for the participants will be conducted by Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, O.P. and Sr. Maria Angelini, O.S.B. There will be five official language groups at the synod: 14 small groups in English, 8 in Italian, 7 in Spanish, 5 in French, 1 in Portuguese.

The Sacred Scripture: From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Why does Sacred Scripture teach the truth? Because God himself is the author of Sacred Scripture. For this reason, it is said to be inspired and to teach without error those truths which are necessary for our salvation. The Holy Spirit inspired the human authors who wrote what he wanted to teach us. The Christian faith, however, is not a "religion of the Book", but of the Word of God - "not a written and mute word, but incarnate and living" (Saint Bernard of Clairvaux). **How is Sacred Scripture to be read?** Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted with the help of the Holy Spirit and under the guidance of the Magisterium of the Church according to three criteria: 1) it must be read with attention to the content and unity of the whole of Scripture; 2) it must be read within the living Tradition of the Church; 3) it must be read with attention to the analogy of faith, that is, the inner harmony which exists among the truths of the faith themselves. **What is the Canon of Scripture?** The *Canon* of Scripture is the complete list of the sacred writings which the Church has come to recognize through Apostolic Tradition. The *Canon* consists of 46 books of the Old Testament and 27 of the New.

October Month Dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary: Memorare: Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Word of God: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Bear fruit for the Father: The gospel this Sunday is another parable about the vineyard (last Sunday it's about two sons called into work in the vineyard; the previous Sunday it was about workers sent into the vineyard at different times of the day with equal pay for all). This Sunday, the landowner sends his servants (prophets) to obtain produce (our good deeds of love and service) from the tenants (the civil and religious leaders). The servants are humiliated, insulted, and killed. He sends finally his own son (Jesus Christ) thinking that they would respect and receive him, but even the son is killed mercilessly. The landowner is heartbroken, but he has tried everything he could. He has no choice now but to turn the vineyard over to new tenants (the church; all those who would accept his son as the Messiah) who will produce fruit for the landowner. The second reading from the letter to the Philippians is one of my favorite readings, where Paul might well be speaking of the fruit that the new tenants will produce for the heavenly Father: "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

A Story to Ponder: An elderly gentleman ran a curio and antique shop in a large city. A tourist once stepped in and got to talking with the old man about the many things that were stacked in that shop. Said the tourist, "What would you say is the strangest, the most mysterious thing you have here?" The old man surveyed the hundreds of curios, antiques, stuffed animals, shrunken heads, mounted fish and birds, archaeological finds, deer heads... then turned to the tourist and said, "The strangest thing in this shop is unquestionably myself."

Quotable Quotes: 1. "Don't let yesterday take up too much of today." --Will Rogers. 2. "Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Walk beside me; just be my friend." --Albert Camus. 3. "I have a dream." --Martin Luther King Jr. 4. "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart." --Helen Keller. 5. "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." --John Quincy Adams.

Humor: 1. Customer: "Do you have alligator shoes?" Clerk: "Yes, sir. What size does your alligator wear?" 2. After the man received his sandwich, he gave the vendor a \$20 bill. The vendor just smiled. The man, infuriated, demanded, "Where is my change?" The vendor replied, "Oh, one with everything, change comes from within." 3. The man was in no shape to drive, so he wisely left his car parked and walked home. As he was walking unsteadily along, he was stopped by a policeman. "What are you doing out here at 2 A.M.?" said the officer. "I'm going to a lecture." The man said. "And who is going to give a lecture at this hour?" the cop asked. "My wife," said the man.

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota