

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota



August 25, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Word of God, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time: The Word of God is the last of the five consecutive Sundays on the meaning and significance of the Eucharist. We have also been reflecting again on the “taste and see the goodness of the Lord” responsorial psalm 34. In the second reading, Paul sets up the intimate relationship between husbands and wives as the metaphor for the inseparable and everlasting relationship between Jesus and the Church. Jesus’ flesh and blood references in the eucharistic discourse in John 6 lead us to the mystery of Jesus remaining in us and we in him. Jesus and we cling to each other. The Church is the mystery where that clinging and remaining and abiding takes place constantly and continuously between Jesus and us. Many are unable to enter this life of union with Jesus in the Eucharist. They choose to return to “their former way of life” and they decide not to accompany Jesus any longer. Jesus wonders if the apostles also are leaving, but Peter in his inimitable style and spirit speaks out: “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” Peter’s declaration is similar to his at Caesarea Philippi when he answers Jesus question, “Who do you say that I am?” Jesus’ words of eternal life, inviting us to feed on him in the Eucharist to have abundant life are reverberating in our hearts and minds. Let’s not return to our “former way of life,” but stay with Jesus and walk with him in the new life that he offers us. We are a new creation in Jesus. With him we are called to belong to a “new heaven and a new earth.”

From the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)*: What is the Good News for humanity? It is the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the “Son of the living God” (*Matthew 16:16*), who died and rose from the dead. In the time of King Herod and the Emperor Caesar Augustus, God fulfilled the promises that he made to Abraham and his descendants. He sent “his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (*Galatians 4:4-5*). How is the Good News spread? From the very beginning the first disciples burned with the desire to proclaim Jesus Christ in order to lead all to faith in him. Even today, from the loving knowledge of Christ there springs up in the believer the desire to evangelize and catechize, that is, to reveal in the Person of Christ the entire design of God and to put humanity in communion with him. “*And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord.*” What is the meaning of the name “Jesus”? Given by the angel at the time of the Annunciation, the name “Jesus” means “God saves”. The name expresses his identity and his mission “because he will save his people from their sins” (*Matthew 1:21*). Peter proclaimed that “there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we can be saved” (*Acts 4:12*).

Inspirational Quotes on Education: “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”---Nelson Mandela. “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”--- Martin Luther King, Jr. “Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”---John Dewey. “My mother said I must always be intolerant of ignorance but understanding of illiteracy; that some people, unable to go to school, were more educated and more intelligent than college professors.”---Maya Angelou.

The Angelus Prayer: The Angelus, a prayer with roots back to the 13th century, is a Marian devotion that is traditionally recited three times a day, usually at 9, noon, and 6. Each recitation includes three Hail Marys with antiphons and responses in between each.

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary . . .

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done to me according to thy word. Hail Mary. . .

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary. . .

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

A Story to Think About: A guru (holy man) asked his disciples how they could tell when the night had ended and the day begun. One said, "When you see an animal in the distance and can tell whether it is a cow or a horse "No." said the guru. "When you look at a tree in the distance and can tell if it is a neem tree or a mango tree." "Wrong again." said the guru." Well then, what is it?" asked the disciples." When you look into the face of any man and recognize your brother in him; when you look into the face of any woman and recognize in her your sister. If you cannot do this, no matter what time it is by the sun it is still night."

School Jokes: Best wishes to and blessings on all school children who have begun a whole new school year. Here's some school humor: 1. Math teacher: A man from Los Angeles drove toward New York at 250 miles per hour and a man from New York drove toward Los Angeles at 150 m.p.h. Where did they meet? Johnny: In jail! 2. Teacher: Tommy, can you tell us where the Declaration of Independence was signed? Tommy: Yes, ma'am. At the bottom. 3. Jordan: My teacher says I have to write more clearly. Mom: That's a good idea, Jordan. Jordan: No, it's not. Then she'll know I can't spell. 4. Luke comes home from his first day of school, and his mother asks, "What did you learn today?" "Not enough," Luke replies. "They said I have to go back tomorrow."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota