

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota



September 1, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Maltese Society Champagne Bingo: Last Sunday, August 25, the Maltese Society of our parish organized a great gathering for lunch, champagne, and Bingo. A successful event, it was attended by over 150 people. My thanks to Jeanette Santos, Emma Magarrell and their team for putting on an enjoyable afternoon event. We need more such social gatherings to bring people together. It's part of our mission to build up the "body of Christ" in our own parish community. I encourage more such gatherings from various organizations. Let me know how I can be of assistance.

Faith Formation Masses and Classes Resume: On Saturday September 07, the Faith Formation children will gather for the 8:30 a.m. Mass and then proceed to their class rooms in Cantwell Hall. I welcome the students, parents, and catechists to another year of faith and community. As in the last year, the students are expected to attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Saturdays followed by their class. I thank the parents and teachers for their collaboration in handing on the precious gift of faith to the next generation.

Completion of the Fence in front of Cantwell Hall: The fence project has successfully been completed. Everyone seems happy with it. The keys have been given to those who need to have them. The cameras in the area are in operation for the safety of everyone. When not in use, please be diligent about locking the fence gate.

Next Project: to renovate and refurbish interior of Cantwell Hall: Our next project in the parish is to take care of the Cantwell Hall. There is much that needs to be done. The floor, painting, windows, chairs, restrooms, kitchen---all these need a lot of attention. I have been hearing from many of you for some time now about the need for this work. I have been consulting with the finance committee, parish staff, and others to get advice about how to proceed and where to find the right people to do these various renovation works for us. Let us get the parish Cantwell Hall spruced up and renovated. If you have any suggestions, please do pass them on to me. Do keep in mind that we share the Hall with Alta Vista School. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, the school has use of it during the day for their sports needs mostly.

Word of God, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: In the second reading this weekend, we hear the words from James: "Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only." We are called to not only profess but also practice our faith. We are to hear God's word and observe it. In other words, our faith has to show forth in the way we live our lives. This fits in with the other readings about the true, authentic meaning of religion. What is the purpose of religion? In this day and age, there are many who are skeptical and critical of the role of religion. We need to hear God speaking to us. That takes some asceticism. We have to remove the noise and clutter in our minds and hearts to be able to hear God's voice. When there are so many voices clamoring for our attention, it is very hard to hear God's gentle, whispering voice. When we have opened ourselves to hearing God's word, then we have to be "doers of the Word," which means we have to put our faith into action: Love, service, compassion, justice, fairness, humility, kindness, especially toward those who are in need. Are we ready and willing to be hearers as well as doers of the Word of God?

Good Shepherd Gracenter Gala 2024: As you may know, this is a licensed recovery center for women, run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. They have a Gala Luncheon on Sunday September 22 from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m, at Dominic's, 2850 Alemany Blvd in San Francisco. The invitation says: "So, welcome to our Gala, enjoy the music, photo booth, incredible silent and LIVE auction items, and great raffle prizes, while you hear about and from our amazing honorees!! If you need assistance in bidding, we have our STAR Super shoppers to assist you. just reach for THEIR star!!"

Think About It: "The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts." ---Bertrand Russell (1872-1970).

Quotes on Jesus: "This is me, a sinner on whom the Lord has turned his gaze. And this is what I said when they asked me if I would accept my election as pontiff. I am a sinner, but I trust in the infinite mercy and patience of our Lord Jesus Christ, and I accept in a spirit of penance." ---Pope Francis. "I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as an historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history." ---H.G. Wells. "In Jesus, God wills to be true God not only in the height but also in the depth--in the depth of human creatureliness, sinfulness and mortality." ---Karl Barth.

Humor: Jonah and the Whale: One day, a teacher was talking to her first grade class about whales when a little girl had a question. Little Girl: "Do whales swallow people?" Teacher: "No, even though they are much bigger than a person, they have throat pleats that filter their food of krill and plankton." Little Girl: "But Mrs. Thurston says Jonah was swallowed by a whale." Teacher getting angry: "Blue whales cannot swallow people." Little Girl: "Well, when I get to heaven I'll just ask Jonah if he was really swallowed by a whale." Teacher, still red with anger: "What if Jonah went to hell?" Little Girl: "Well, then you can ask him."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota