

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

October 27, 2024



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

October is a month Dedicated to the BVM: There is an awesome fresco by Michaelangelo called "The Last Judgment" on the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel. The last time I was there, I was struck deeply by the solemnity and beauty of the place. It is the place where Conclaves are held to elect a new pope. As the cardinals line up to vote, they are faced with the image of the last judgment, urging them to discern and choose the new pope according to the mind and heart of Christ. In the fresco, Mary stands close to Jesus as he renders his merciful judgment. Mary is always with Jesus her son as he calls us, anoints us, speaks to us, nourishes us, shepherds us, loves us, forgives us and sends us out to the world to "go proclaim the good news." Mary's role in our following of Christ is one of motherly hope and desire that we will have the wisdom and courage to be with Christ always. As we pray the Rosary in the month of October, let's feel the presence and power of our Blessed Mother as she leads and guides us to her son Jesus.

The Word of God, 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time: This Sunday we read a hauntingly beautiful story of Jesus healing a blind man. Desperate, he cries out: "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me." People try to silence him, but he shouts even more. Such is his need. It's his only chance for him to get what he wants from Jesus. He prays with faith and a sense of urgency and intensity and persistence. Jesus hears him and heals him. As Jesus calls him, "He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus." When we go to Jesus, we have to throw away a whole lot of things we do not need anymore. Our need, too, is like the blind man's: "Master, I want to see." Is it possible that we have eyes but do not see. We look, but do not see into the heart of people, life, and situations. We need more sight. The blind man "immediately received his sight and followed him on the way." When we can "see" better, we shall follow Jesus and be on the way. Being on the way with Jesus is all about what we are called to do as Christians. This gospel story is full of meaning for each of us, our families, and communities. It gives us insight about prayer, faith, perseverance, seeing, throwing away the useless baggage, following Jesus, and becoming his disciples.

From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCCC): **How did he institute the Eucharist?** After he had gathered with his apostles in the Cenacle, Jesus took bread in his hands. He broke it and gave it to them saying, "Take this and eat it, all of you; this is my Body which will be given up for you". Then, he took the cup of wine in his hands and said, "Take this and drink of this, all of you. This is the cup of my Blood, the Blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me".

A Poetic Quote: "We shall not cease from exploration / And the end of all our exploring / Will be to arrive where we started / And know the place for the first time." — T. S. Eliot, Four Quartets

A Story to Ponder: An elderly man stood at the door with a piece of cake in his hand. "My wife is eighty-six today," he said, "and she wants you to have a piece of her birthday cake." The cake was received gratefully, particularly because the man had walked nearly half a mile to deliver it. An hour later he was back. "Is anything the matter?" he was asked. "Well," he replied sheepishly. "Agatha sent me back to say she's only eighty-five."

Short Jokes: 1. Teacher: Tell me a sentence that starts with an "I". Student: I is the....Teacher: Stop! Never put 'is' after an "I". Always put 'am' after an "I". Student: OK. I am the ninth letter of the alphabet. 2. On a crowded bus, one man noticed that another man had his eyes closed. "What's the matter? Are you sick?" he asked. "No, I'm okay. It's just that I hate to see old ladies standing." 3. Once there were three turtles. One day they decided to go on a picnic. When they got there, they realized they had forgotten the soda. The youngest turtle said he would go home and get it if they wouldn't eat the sandwiches until he got back. A week went by, then a month, finally a year, when the two turtles said, "oh, come on, let's eat the sandwiches." Suddenly the little turtle popped up from behind a rock and said, "If you do, I won't go!" 4. Three mice are being chased by a cat. The mice were cornered when one of the mice turned around and barked, "Ruff! Ruff! Ruff!" The surprised cat ran away scared. Later when the mice told their mother what happened, she smiled and said, "You see, it pays to be bilingual!" 5. "I was born in California." "Which part?" "All of me." 6. Bank Teller: How do you like the money? English Student: I like it very much. 7. Customer: Excuse me, but I saw your thumb in my soup when you were carrying it. Waitress: Oh, that's okay. The soup isn't hot. 8. Teacher: Why are you late? Student: There was a man who lost a hundred-dollar bill. Teacher: That's nice. Were you helping him look for it? Student: No. I was standing on it. 9. Man: I want to share everything with you. Woman: Let's start from your bank account. 10. Teacher: "Nick, what is the past participle of the verb to ring?" Nick: "What do you think it is, Sir?" Teacher: "I don't think, I KNOW!" Nick: "I don't think I know either, Sir!"

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota