

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

July 6, 2025



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Word of God: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Jesus sends us out. It happens continuously. He sends us out not to a faraway country as missionaries, though at times it might happen, but for most of us, most of the time, Jesus sends us out to our own family, neighborhood, friends, organizations, work places, parish community, etc. to continue and complete the mission of Christ. Jesus did that over 2000 years ago when he sent the 72 disciples "to every town and place he intended to visit." He said to them: "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." We are called to cure the sick and proclaim the Kingdom of God. Toward the end of the passage today, Jesus cautions them not to gloat over the fact of the demons obeying them but rather because their names are written in heaven. Our names are written in heaven. The call, therefore, is to live up to the truth that we belong to this earth as well as to heaven. Our life journey is oriented toward making this world a better place where the Kingdom of God would come. Our life is also oriented toward the ultimate union we will have with God to live for eternity in joy and peace. That's where our dear departed ones have gone. That's where we shall go one day. May the life we have with Jesus on a daily basis as he sends us out to one another, to love and serve, lead us to our fulfillment and happiness now and into eternal life.

Jubilee Year 2025: The Jubilee Year, proclaimed by Pope Francis and now presided over by Pope Leo XIV, is a special Holy Year of grace and spiritual renewal in the Catholic Church, celebrated every 25 years. It began on December 24, 2024, and will end in December 2025, its theme is "**Pilgrims of Hope.**" We are half way through this year. It invites the faithful to deepen their relationship with God through prayer, pilgrimage, confession, and acts of mercy. Millions are expected to visit Rome and pass through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, symbolizing the passage to salvation. The Jubilee emphasizes forgiveness, reconciliation, and social justice, encouraging outreach to the poor, the marginalized, and those in need of hope. Pope Francis had also urged a "Jubilee of Justice," promoting ecological and economic responsibility. As the world emerges from recent crises, including the pandemic and global conflicts, the Jubilee 2025 seeks to unite people in faith, healing, and hope for a more compassionate future.

What is Catholicism?: Richard McBrien, a well-known theologian says this: "Catholicism is characterized by a both/and rather than an either/or approach. It is not nature or grace, but graced nature; not reason or faith, but reason illumined by faith; not law or Gospel, but law inspired by the Gospel; not Scripture or tradition, but normative tradition within Scripture; not faith or works, but faith issuing in works and works as expressions of faith; not authority or freedom, but authority in the service of freedom; not unity or diversity, but unity in diversity."

Let's Sing with the Pope: As you may have seen already, Pope Leo loves to sing at Masses and during his Public Audiences. Taking advantage of the Holy Father's desire to sing, the Pontifical Institute of sacred Music has launched a video series called "Let's Sing with the Pope" to teach Gregorian chant and promote participation in liturgical singing. The series is hosted by Father Robert Mehlhart, O.P., the institute's rector. Check it out on YouTube!

Friday July 11, Feast of St. Benedict: It honors the father of Western monasticism. Born around 480 AD in Italy, St. Benedict founded the Benedictine Order and wrote the *Rule of St. Benedict*, a guide for monastic life centered on prayer, work, and community. The Rule is noted for its wisdom, moderation, and need for obedience. His teachings emphasize humility, obedience, and balance. This feast celebrates his enduring spiritual legacy, which continues to influence Christian monasticism and spiritual life worldwide.

A Story to Ponder: The Tale of Two Wolves: An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life: "A fight is going on inside me," he said. "It is a terrible fight between two wolves. One is evil – anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, lies. The other is good – joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, truth." The grandson asked, "Which wolf wins?" The old man replied: "The one you feed." **Wisdom:** You shape your character by what you nurture inside yourself.

Brief Insightful Quotes: "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." – Mahatma Gandhi. "It is never too late to be what you might have been." – George Eliot. "Stay foolish to stay sane." – Maxime Lagacé. "Whatever you are, be a good one." – Abraham Lincoln. "You must do the things you think you cannot do." – Eleanor Roosevelt. "Wherever you go, go with all your heart." – Confucius. "Make each day your masterpiece." – John Wooden. "Happiness is not by chance, but by choice." – Jim Rohn. "You do not find the happy life. You make it." – Camilla Eyring Kimball. "There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." – Edith Wharton. "Believe you can and you're halfway there." – Theodore Roosevelt.

Catholic Jokes: 1. A newly ordained priest had just finished his first Nuptial Mass without making any mistakes in the ceremony. He looked down upon the bride and bridegroom with relief and satisfaction as he raised his arms for the final blessing and said, "This marriage is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." 2. Little Mary was sitting on her grandfather's knee and after looking at him intently for some time she said, "Grandpa, were you in the Ark with Noah?" "Certainly not, my dear," he replied in astonishment. "Then," asked Mary, "Why weren't you drowned?"

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota