

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

April 25, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Easter Seasonal Musings: We are luxuriating in the beauty and power of Easter. The Risen Christ has shown us the way that, despite all sorts of odds in our life, hope springs eternal for new life. We are to come away from the tombs to where live with Christ abounds. We can leave our tombs of sin and guilt, selfishness and self-centeredness, greed and self-gratification, bias and prejudice, grudges and resentment, hatred and bitterness, anger and indifference, anguish and anxiety, complacency and hopelessness. We can walk triumphant with the Risen Lord into the light of life. We are an Easter people! We are a Resurrection people! We are a people of hope and peace and joy! Let's come away from the mood of Lent and the sadness of the Good Friday and rejoice with the Lord. He's risen from the dead, alleluia! Because of Jesus' resurrection, we can experience transcendence in our daily lives--and help, heal, comfort, console, and transform the world, one person at a time, one day at a time, one situation at a time, one relationship at a time, one issue at a time. May the Risen Christ energize us as he did 2000 years ago --- for love and service.

Good Shepherd Sunday: This Sunday is traditionally known as the Good Shepherd Sunday. In the gospel from John 10 Jesus says: "I'm the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Having laid down his life for us, this good shepherd shepherds us through all sorts of situations and circumstances to green pastures. He protects us from danger. He feeds us. He guides us. He carries us in his arms. He knows us and wants us to know him. In our love for this good shepherd, we are called to help shepherd one another toward Christ.

Good Shepherd Sisters, Happy Feast!: Good Shepherd Sunday is a big feast for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in our neighborhood. On your behalf I'd like to wish a happy feast to Sr. Anne Kelley, Sr. Marguerite Bartling, Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez, Sr. Danielle Fung, and Sr. Olga Cristobal. As you may know, they run Gracenter to assist and support women in recovery. They are also engaged in diverse ministries like Laguna Honda Hospital, St. Vincent de Paul, and Janet Pomeroy Center. We wish them God's choicest blessings and assure them of our support and prayers.

Our Church Roof Repairs: Seven or eight years ago, some roof repairs were done in our church. However, leaks continued during the rainy seasons. About four months ago, we got Western Roofing Company to fix the leaks under the old warranty arrangement. The Real Property department of the Archdiocese and the roofing company have been helpful in repairing some parts of the roof. There are other areas of the roof, especially the flat parts of the roof, that need to be repaired. I'm waiting for an estimate of the proposal. I shall keep you posted. It would be helpful for you to know how your donations are put to good use in the maintenance of our buildings and for God's work to flourish in our parish.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA): As you know, our goal is to reach \$40K. To be exact, we need to raise \$39,425. So far, you have donated \$35,234. We now need only \$4,191 more. Please see your names on the last page of the bulletin. Our parish staff tell me that this is really an amazing, unprecedented participation this year for AAA in our parish. Thank you for your generosity. Please help us in reaching the goal quickly so that we could have the pure satisfaction of having successfully completed this project. Our help to the Archdiocese is important for them to continue their ministry and mission.

Our Parish Celebration for 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines: This is at the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Ascension Sunday May 16 with the Archbishop presiding. Plans are underway. Congrats to the Filipino community on their faith and spirit of community!

Confirmation Candidates Mass and Confession: Saturday April 17 I had invited the four Confirmation candidates and their families to join the 8:00 a.m. Mass. I spoke to them after the Mass about the importance of Confirmation (coming up for them on May 15 at the Cathedral) and heard their Confession. Let's keep them in our prayers.

Our Parish Masses have moved Indoors: After consultations, I have decided to move our Sunday Mass permanently indoors. We can do 50% capacity of the church, with masks and social distancing. I hope you'll continue to enjoy the Sunday Mass now indoors. We don't have to worry about the unpredictability of weather anymore.

Meeting with Knights of Columbus: On Friday April 16, I had a good meeting with the Knights of Columbus, along with Hermie de Los Reyes and Sr. Olga. They are ready to begin to meet regularly and assist our parish in anyway they can. I have invited them to begin to use Cantwell Hall for their meetings, as I have invited the other groups as well.

Catholic Joke --- The Lord is My Shepherd: A Faith Formation teacher decided to have her 2nd grade class memorize Psalm 23, one of the most quoted passages in the Bible. She gave the children a month to learn the chapter. One little boy was excited about the task, but he just couldn't memorize the Psalm. Although he practiced and practiced, he could hardly get past the first line. The day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the congregation. The little boy was nervous. When his turn came, he stepped up to the microphone and proudly said, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know!"

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota