

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

June 6, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Feast of Corpus Christi: This Sunday is the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. For over twenty centuries the Church has been coming together to break bread and share the cup. This is my body, Jesus had said. This is my blood, Jesus had said. And he added, whenever you do this remember me. So we commemorate the sacred act of Jesus giving himself as food. The sacrament of the Eucharist is the sacrament of the sacraments. It is the source and summit of Christian life. It is in this sacrament, the church comes together again and again, drawing upon the new life Jesus gives us as we share his body and blood.

In the Eucharist, Jesus is truly, really, and substantially present. As we partake of the Eucharist, we become totally united with Christ. Jesus remains in us, we remain in Jesus. We together remain in the Father. We don't live any longer, Christ lives in us. That is why we call this sacrament "communion." Because we individually become united with Christ, we are all united with each other and in Christ. We all become the body of Christ because we share the Body of Christ. This is mystical indeed! This is a divine mystery! The vitality of Christian life is centered on the Eucharist. Our identity as Christians is tied up with the Eucharist. Faith is at the heart of our conviction that Jesus gives us his own body and blood in the Eucharist. Even like a mother giving her body and blood to her baby in her womb, Jesus gives us his body and blood in total self-gift and as a sign of his inseparable union with us.

Recently, we celebrated the First Communion of four of our Faith Formation children. If we could recover some of their excitement, faith, zeal, eagerness, devotion, desire, and their sense of awe about the Eucharist, it would indeed be a great blessing.

I'm Reaching Social Security Eligible Age: This June 11th I'll be reaching the traditionally Social-security eligible age of 65. Any birthday, especially this particular one at 65, would make us think about the before, the now, and the after. One cannot but get philosophical and theological about life. It's time, no doubt, to think about what lies ahead. At my age, it would be naive not to think about the possibilities and circumstances of retirement, when it happens, in the next few years. Also, there is a glance at the past, at all the time that has gone by, the years of search for meaning and purpose, the failures and achievements. There is also the focus on what is at present, my ministry at St. Elizabeth, with you all, as we journey together on this pilgrimage of life, sharing faith and fellowship. As St. Paul would say which the song paraphrases well: "I thank my God each time I think of you and when I pray for you, I pray with joy." I think of my parents, siblings, and friends with deep gratitude. I thank you all for your collaboration and affirmation. Let's be friends in the Lord, as we make each other's lives as pleasant and easy as possible because of our love and forbearance for one another. While life is not forever in this world, we have love, faith, and service to offer one another now. Please in your charity do keep me in your prayers.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA): Congratulations to St. Elizabeth Church, to all who donated, for having successfully completed this campaign. You are wonderful and impressive in reaching this goal of \$39,425 in just 11 weeks. We will not be putting the names of donors in the bulletin anymore. However, those of you who might like to continue giving to AAA, especially because of the second collection envelopes that you'll be receiving throughout the year from the envelope company, please do continue to donate. Whatever is surplus will get returned to our parish from the Archdiocese.

A Story to Ponder: Gossip: The disciple couldn't wait to tell the Master the rumor he had heard in the marketplace. "Wait a minute," said the Master. "What you plan to tell us, is it true?" "I don't think it is." "Is it useful?" "No, it isn't." "Is it funny?" "No." "Then why should we be hearing it?"

Quotes on Life: "The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."---Dolly Parton. "The purpose of our lives is to be happy."---Dalai Lama. "Keep calm and carry on."---Winston Churchill. "Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans."---John Lennon. "Life is a lot like jazz. It's best when you improvise."---George Gershwin. "It's not length of life, but depth of life."---Ralph Waldo Emerson. "Nearly all the best things that came to me in life have been unexpected, unplanned by me."---Carl Sandburg. "My life is my message."---Mahatma Gandhi.

Jokes: 1. A pastor always used the phrase, "It might be worse," when some calamity would come his way. One day a friend said to him, "I've something to tell you, and you won't be able to use your favorite phrase. I dreamt last night that I died and went to hell." "It might be worse," said the preacher. The friend came unglued: "Man alive, how could it be worse?" To which the pastor replied: "It might be true." 2. A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a babysitter."

Wishing you and your families God's continued blessings every day, every moment of your lives,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota