

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

August 8, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Projects in our Parish: I have been working with our staff and the Archdiocese on the following projects in the parish, which need to get done in the next few weeks.

1. **Church Roof:** Some years ago, the A-Frame roof (slanted parts of roof) of our church was done, but there were problems with leaking. When I first arrived at our parish last year, we were able to look at the leaking problems and called the roofing company back to repair the leaking areas under the warranty of their previous work. On inspection, the company also pointed out the problems with the flat surfaces of the roof that need to be replaced. Having received a couple of bids for this work, I have been in touch with the Archdiocese to get this job done. When the project is approved, I shall let you know of the exact nature of the work and how much it's going to cost us.

2. **Boiler in Alta Vista School:** The school recently brought to our notice that the boiler in the school had not been working well. After some research and consultation, it's been decided that a new boiler needs to be installed. As the landlord of the school, our parish has the responsibility of ensuring the replacement of the boiler. Another company will be taking care of the asbestos-related work when a new boiler is going to be installed. Again, when the project has been approved, I shall let you know the expense involved. As you can guess, these projects will cost a lot of money to complete.

3. **Cantwell Hall:** As many of you are aware, Cantwell Hall has been a neglected place and needs a lot of attention with the ceiling, floor, restrooms, etc. Some of these immediate needs are being addressed, but we do need to keep maintaining this facility now, because if we do not, we may end up having to spend so much more later.

Please do continue to support the parish in whatever way you can so that we have the resources to keep maintaining the buildings and facilities according to the code, which is all for continuing God's work in our parish. If there is anyone who would be willing to donate toward the whole or parts of these big projects, out of love for and loyalty to our parish, please would you let me know. It would be greatly appreciated.

9:30 a.m. Mass Choir: Some from the choir have talked to me about the desire for reviving the choir. I thank you for your interest and your feedback. As you well know, the pandemic has disrupted life in general and the parish life in particular. For months everything was shut down. Our liturgical celebrations have been on hold for months. We are slowly restoring the Masses and other sacraments. We now have the daily Mass and two weekend Masses. There are only a maximum of 70 people attending the 4:30 p.m. Saturday vigil Mass and a maximum of 140 people attending the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. With fewer people attending the Masses, our weekly donations are not at the level as before. Due to Covid restrictions recommended by the city and our Archdiocese, only small choirs are allowed and that too, with 12 feet of distance maintained between the choir members. Also, in summer months, the choir has always taken a break from its regular performance. Additionally, in fairness, I need to think about how to provide music for the Saturday vigil Mass and what financial resources to allocate to that Mass as well. Considering all these factors, we do not have the choir right now, but when the time comes, in light of assessment of Covid and financial situations, it's my hope that we might be able to provide music at both the weekend Masses. Meanwhile, I'd like to encourage everyone to take a deep breath and be patient, and focus on other aspects of the liturgical celebrations, such as prayer, the Word of God, our coming together as a community, communion with Jesus and our union with one another, concern for the health and safety of everyone else in these Covid times, etc.

A Story to Ponder: A guy buys a newspaper every day from a newspaper vendor. The newspaper vendor is always rude to him. So a friend of his says, *"Why do you buy your paper from this guy? He's always rude to you. Why don't you buy it from someone else just next door?"* Says the guy, *"Why should the vendor decide where I buy my newspaper? Why should he have the power to decide that?"*

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Please see the last page of this bulletin for details.

Jokes: 1. "Did Moses ever get better in the end?" asked the little girl home from Faith Formation class. "Why," asked her mother, "whatever makes you think he was ill?" "Well, he must have been," was the reply. "Didn't God tell him to take the tablets?"

2. Cardinal Vaughan, before he died, sternly forbade the preaching of a panegyric at his funeral. "I don't like the idea of a priest lying in the coffin and another priest lying in the pulpit."

3. A newly ordained priest was conducting the funeral service. In concluding his homily, he mentioned that the soul had departed the body and he illustrated it with dramatic gestures by pointing to the corpse and declaring: "Dear friends, what you see here is just the shell. The nut has departed."

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota