

# Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

September 19, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



**Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,**

**Installation of Boiler in Alta Vista School:** The installation of a new boiler is underway in Alta Vista School at the cost of about \$55,000, which would also include the careful work connected with addressing asbestos. As you know, the parish will be meeting this expense, as we are the landlord of the school. This is just to keep you informed. Please continue to support our parish in whatever way you can.

**Liturgical Minister Training:** Last weekend and this weekend, the Archdiocesan Liturgical Training program is taking place in our parish, both in the church and in Cantwell Hall. This is to train Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. Nearly 80 attendees came from many parishes of the Archdiocese. Last weekend, our parish volunteers were extraordinary in showing our parish hospitality to those attending this program. In all the arrangements made and in the food served before the sessions, our volunteers were much appreciated. As you know, one of the vital qualities in the church is to show hospitality. To make people feel welcome. To be a welcoming church. To make it a joyful experience for people to gather, to pray, to celebrate friendships and to build up the family of God. Let's keep doing our proverbial hospitality at St. Elizabeth parish.

**This Sunday is Catechetical Sunday:** This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on **September 19, 2021** under the theme of "Say the Word and My Soul Shall Be Healed." On this day, catechists are formally commissioned for ministry to the community. I would like to thank our parish catechists. Thank you for your dedication and generosity. Catechetical Sunday is a timely opportunity to reflect on the role that each baptized person plays in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate ourselves to this mission as a community of faith.

**Pope Francis' Apostolic Journey to Central Europe:** Pope Francis, 84, undertook a four-day visit to Hungary and Slovakia, his first foreign trip since his intestinal surgery in July. His short visit to Budapest included the celebration of the concluding Mass of the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Eucharistic Congress, meeting with the Bishops, Prime Minister Viktor Orban, representatives of the Ecumenical Council of Churches and some Jewish communities. In his 3-day visit to Slovakia, the Holy Father met with the Jewish community, the Bishops, priests, Religious, seminarians and catechists. Pope Francis also had meetings with civil authorities and diplomatic corps, the Roma community, and young people. Let's keep our Holy Father in our hearts and prayers.

**Word of God:** In the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus continues with his prediction (which we saw in last Sunday's reading) about his suffering and death. He is the Christ, the Messiah, but not a triumphant one, but one who suffers and dies: "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." To his disciples who were jockeying for power and prominence, Jesus expresses his values that go against those the world often cherishes: "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." As followers and disciples of Jesus, we are to rearrange our "worldly" desires of hungering for power, position, wealth, prominence, authority, glamour, praise, etc. Yes, we can be the first and prominent, but that will be by becoming the last and servants of others. This is what Jesus himself practiced in his life. Are we ready to live by a different set of values than we naturally are drawn to? Are we ready to march to a different drummer?

**A Story to Think About:** King Pyrrhus of Epirus was approached by his friend Cyneas and asked, "If you conquer Rome, what will you do next, sir?" Pyrrhus replied, "Sicily is next door and will be easy to take." "And what shall we do after Sicily is taken?" "Then we will move over to Africa and sack Carthage." "And after Carthage, sir?" "The turn of Greece will come." "And what, may I ask, will the fruit of all these conquests be?" "Then," said Pyrrhus, "we can sit down and enjoy ourselves." "Can we not," said Cyneas, "enjoy ourselves now?"

**Insightful Quotes from Pope Francis:** 1. A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just. 2. Grace is not part of consciousness; it is the amount of light in our souls, not knowledge nor reason. 3. Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that create huge inequalities. 4. Life is a journey. When we stop, things don't go right. 5. Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God.

**Jokes:**

1. A minister in Florida lamented that it was difficult to get his message across to his congregation: "It's so beautiful here in the winter," he said, "that heaven doesn't interest them. And it's so hot here in the summer that hell doesn't scare them."
2. A six-year-old boy was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service: "And forgive us our trash passes as we forgive those who pass trash against us." 3. A Faith Formation teacher asked her class: "Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?" A small girl replied: "Aren't those the sins we should have committed, but didn't?"

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota