

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

August 6, 2023



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Parish Consultors Meeting (PCM): Sacristans, the Choirs, Ushers, EMs, Lectors: In the PCM meeting held on June 27, reports were shared from various groups about their work in the parish. I'd like to thank the sacristans Sharon Soares, Phil McCarthy, Richard John, and David Gemignani for their dedicated and generous service at the liturgical celebrations and for taking care of the safety and security of the church. Also, my thanks to the Paduas and Belma for the interior environment in the Church for various seasons and for tending the plants and the flowers. To the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass choir, you do a fabulous job of helping us pray! Your friendships among yourselves are also inspirational. I appreciate your dedicated service to God and His people, Sunday after Sunday. Also to the Men's Choir that sings on the Fourth Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Mass, my many thanks. Keep up the good work! Thanks also to the many lectors, EMs, and Ushers who do a great job of proclaiming the Word of God, for sharing the Body of Christ, and for showing exceptional hospitality to those who come into our church.

World Youth Day (WYD): The 37th World Youth Day is taking place from August 1 through August 6 in Lisbon, Portugal. It's a global gathering of young people who are eager to deepen their faith experience in the universality of the Catholic Church and commit their lives to Christ alongside hundreds of thousands of like-minded peers. Pope Francis will be present and participate in many of the events as part of the Holy Father's Apostolic journey to Portugal. The theme of this WYD is "Mary arose and went with haste." Let's keep the young people in our prayers. They are vital for the future of the Church and the world. As the numbers of "nones" (those not affiliated with any organized religion) are increasing in the Christian churches it's a matter of great concern about how to pass on faith to the next generation and how to be an authentic and energetic voice of the Church to the world. Without the youth of today engaged in the life of the Church, we would find it difficult to be the "church in the modern world" tomorrow.

Word of God this Sunday August 6: Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord: This is one of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary (along with Baptism of the Lord, Wedding at Cana, Proclamation of the Kingdom, and Institution of the Eucharist). Jesus is transfigured up on a high mountain before his apostles Peter, James, and John. Moses and Elijah, the law giver and prophet, join Jesus. Jesus' face "shone like the sun" and his clothes "became white as light." Peter is in a trance and would like to erect three tents. A cloud overshadowed them. A voice is heard from heaven that says: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am

well pleased; listen to him." As they descend the mountain, Jesus instructs them not to tell anyone about it until his resurrection. This event in the life of Jesus is another moment of epiphany, an event of revelation, a crystallization of his sense of mission, a time of anointing, a glimpse of his glory, a time of clarity, a moment of affirmation. We are all called to transcendence as well. To be able to discover our true identity as the children of God and as disciples of Jesus would be the first step in going about fulfilling our mission and calling. By listening to Jesus in a continuous way, we could become the beloved children of the Father. Transfiguration and transformation are the processes that Jesus is inviting us to, if we but participate in the mission of Christ, to continue his work and complete it.

Characteristics of Being Catholic: In his book *Practice Makes Catholic*, Joe Paprocki lists five identifying markers of a Catholic. Here they are: 1. **A sense of sacramentality** – the depth and meaning of rituals and symbols as a way of knowing God and honoring God's presence in our lives. 2. **A commitment to community** – understanding what it means to be community in today's culture and how to intentionally connect individuals and families to the Catholic community. 3. **Respect for human life** – Gospel values are grounded in connecting how we think about the value of each person and treat one another with the understanding that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. 4. **Reverence for sacred scripture and sacred tradition** – Meditating on the Bible and being diligent on knowing the core teachings and beliefs of the Catholic Church: only then being able to put these teachings in action within the world we encounter. 5. **Attitude of faith and hope** – the movement from despair to comfort found in God's love.

Think About It: "How shall I attain eternal life?" "Eternal life is now. Come into the present." "But I'm in the present now, am I not?" "No" "Why not?" "Because you haven't dropped your past." "Why should I drop my past? Not all of it is bad." "The past is to be dropped not because it's bad but because it is dead." (ADM)

Inspirational Quote: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." --- Maya Angelou

Humor: 1. One Sunday in church a little boy took off his tie and put it into the offering basket. "What are you doing?" asked his mother. "What the minister said," answered the little boy. "He told us to give our ties and offerings." 2. You know when you're getting old when you walk into a record store and everything you like has been marked down to \$1.99. 3. The diner was furious when his steak arrived too rare. "Waiter," he barked, "didn't you hear me say 'well done'?" "I can't thank you enough, sir," replied the waiter. "I hardly ever get a compliment."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota