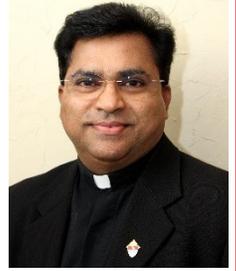


From the Pastor's Desk,



My Church Is My Second Home!



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The word church is spelled as C H U R C H, and you might notice that the letters UR (YOU ARE) is in the middle of the Church. Are you not excited that you are deliberately and precious placed in the middle of the Church? Certainly, I am thrilled to have that special position and honor. As per the ecclesiastical understanding of the Church, it is supposed to be a “Community of Communion” of God’s people here on earth. This means that each of us makes the church. Therefore, you are important; and you have a vital role and responsibility in making the church the way the Lord wants it to be!

Our parish is certainly a wonderful parish with lots of positive characteristics that are uncommon to several other parishes and they are surely a blessing. But there is nothing in the world that cannot be improved on. So also, there are opportunities and possibilities in our parish for improvement so as to make it the way the Lord wants. I am suggesting three points as your pastor for our personal, familial, and parish considerations. They are:

- 1: Take up the Ownership of our parish**
- 2: Make up the Stewardship of our parish**
- 3: Live up to the Baptismal Commitment in our parish.**

Taking up the ownership of our parish- means that we are symbolically assuming the ownership of our parish and carry out our duties and responsibilities in the parish as if it is our own and our second home. Our church is our own church and our second home. It is not a church where we just go for Mass like one would go to a movie theater for a movie; we don’t own the theater, but just use it for our enjoyment. Our church is a gift to us and it is where we belong to and we need to take care of it to the best of our God given abilities.

Making up the Stewardship of our parish- Means that you become aware that you are a steward of God’s gift which is your church and you have an obligation and responsibility to protect and safe guard it. We have to share as the scripture says at least 10% of our time, talent, and treasure (TTT) as to build up God’s gift which is our church. We need to share the best fruit of our labor like that of Abel in the old testament, not like Cain who gave the left-over. God always deserves the best and the first because all what we have comes from Him. God does not deserve the left-over portions of our time, talents and treasure but the best of all of it.

Living up to the Baptismal Commitment in our parish- Means that we are reminded of those great blessings that we have received in the Sacrament of Baptism and make all the effort possible to live up to the expectations and commitments. We are anointed as priests, prophets, and kings and we need to keep up that dignity and purity unstained in our daily lives. It is that dignity and honor that makes us different from others who are around us. God bless you all!

Lovingly your Pastor,

Fr. Tomy Puliyanampattayil Joseph, MSFS