Stewardship starts with God and his abundance. Out of gratitude to our generous God we share our Time, Talent and Treasure.

Christ the King Parish under the leadership of Monsignor Mortimer Danaher began its Total Stewardship Program in 1992. We have come a long way, but of course there is still much to do. It was Monsignor's vision and his determination that every child in the parish should be provided with the opportunity to have a Catholic education regardless of family finances that inspired this program. Monsignor knew these children are the future of our parish and the Catholic community and so should have the opportunity for a Catholic education. Monsignor had great faith in the Christ the King community and felt that he could rely on the entire parish to support this endeavor. The only way to achieve this goal was to initiate a Total Stewardship Program.

Since the very term stewardship was foreign to many, the first step was to familiarize the parishioners with the basis of the program and to show them that if the program was to succeed, stewardship had to become a way of life. This was accomplished in a variety of ways, by meeting with ministry heads, and by explaining from the pulpit the meaning of the program. We tried to include all age groups in this program. The singles, the young families, the retired - some of them affluent - some struggling to make ends meet. Regardless of circumstances everyone has something to offer.

The next step was to find the right person as stewardship director. Patricia Thomas, a member of Christ the King parish was selected by Monsignor Danaher to fill this important position. Next came the formation of a stewardship committee. Monsignor and Pat realized that if the program was to be successful they needed people who were spiritually motivated and exemplified true Christian Stewardship. This committee consists of

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Editor’s Note

Someone once told me that changes are life’s opportunities and we should make the most of them. The Courier staff has run into a life opportunity and I believe that we have made the most of it.

We have decided to enter the electronic age! You may have noticed that the paper looks a bit different. The layout and design used to be done by hand. The articles were printed out on white paper and then put through a waxing machine (which made the paper attach to a large poster-like board with blue lines). From there they were “pasted” up by hand. Then pictures were added by the same method.

Everything was calculated for size by our layout and design professional, Tony Trotti. It took many hours to produce our 44-page publication. Sometimes articles had to be taken off of one page and put onto another.

Now we are learning to do all the above layout and design in the computer. This brings new challenges to many of us who have limited experience with desktop publishing. We are in the learning stages and hope to bring new and innovative ideas to the layout of the page as we learn how to do them.

But for the present, we are sticking to the basics in order to get the issue out in a timely manner. We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we have in putting it together. We look forward to bringing you the best paper we can imagine. As always, we welcome your opinion on the quality of our paper.

Throughout the issue you will find our children’s view of what it means to be Catholic. Father Thanh announced that this year’s emphasis would be on what it means to be Catholic. We have devoted two pages to the children’s response to Father Thanh’s inspirational talk on receiving the Eucharist.

This month is also our Stewardship month. Please don’t miss our stewardship articles... like Eileen’s “Characteristics of Stewardship” which has been a regular segment of our paper since February of 2000. This issue has something for everyone. Please sit down... relax... and enjoy this issue. May God bless all of you.

Talking with Father Thanh

Thankfully there is a little chill in the air at last, and Fall has really arrived. A new school year has begun and it is an appropriate time to think again of our gratitude to God for all that we are, all that we have, and all that we want to be.

The generosity of God is awesome. There is no way we can repay his generosity, but we realize we are called to show our lives, through how we live, our grateful response to this generosity. God gave us His only Son; the Son gave up His life for us. We are called to answer this sacrifice with gratitude and sacrifice of our own from our heart. We are called to give sacrificially, just as we receive.

This year we will focus on Stewardship, which is a means for expressing gratitude for all that we are by the sharing of our time, our talents — whatever they may be — and our treasure.

The Parish Council is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Stewardship program here at Christ the King. We are grateful to Msgr. Danaher for introducing this way of life to our parish and God never cease to be grateful in generosity. Since Msgr. Danaher began the Stewardship program see how the parish has flourished. Just how the Holy Spirit has filled our ministries!

The number of ministries is overwhelming in the eyes of many

parishes. How can Christ the King Church have so many people doing so many different things. Weren’t the baskets filled with food, personal items, household products, and baby needs just a beautiful sight at the foot of Mary? Didn’t it warm the heart to see so tangibly the generosity of the parishioners coming to Mass? And wasn’t there some healthy feeling of pride as your gift was placed in the basket? These are gifts from the Holy Spirit received because of the giving itself.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society held this first annual drive for replenishment of the “pantry” and there is gratitude for their service from the parish, and they have expressed gratitude to the parish for the means to continue their work. Gratitude and abundance seem to attend each other.

Father Carr presided over the 10 o’clock Mass as the Spiritual Advisor to the Society and we are all so grateful for the gifts of his time and considerable talent — and, of course, his enthusiasm which is also a talent.

In this 10th anniversary year we want to recommit the parish to the spirit of stewardship: to share gratefully, from the heart, the gifts we have received in such bounty.

One of the most remarkable gifts of the Stewardship program is our school. We are emphasizing the students “What It Means To Be Catholic”. Each month the students are given a special area of the body of our Catholic faith around which to build knowledge through expression in art, writing, music, and all academic subject areas. In this way the students will learn what sets our faith apart and what it can mean in all areas of life.

Many thanks go to all the teachers who have worked with the children to deepen the understanding and the meaning behind these special areas of religious study. As you read the Courier you will be able to see some of the fruits of the students’ labor.
November is Stewardship Month

Don't miss out on the various events that are happening in our parish during Stewardship Month.

There is still time to sign up for the ministries of your choice.

November 10th

November 17th Monsignor Danaher will speak at all Masses.

November 24th Feast of Christ the King
Guest speaker, John Luciano, will speak on the importance of sharing our time, talent & treasure.

BBQ Dinner after Noon Mass.

What's Happening

Welcome:

We would like to welcome the following individuals and families to Christ the King Community.

The Mark Campochiaro Family
Kevin Fritz
Phyllis Lingnak
Jacki Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Casey Brock
Mercedes Anderson
Sharon Smith
The Aristotle Bueno Family
The Danny DeWilt Family
The Mike Cornwall/Pepper Family
The George Hale Family
The Kristen Zimmerly Family
The Kathleen Cole Family
The Edward L. Woodall Family
Linda Volum
Adele Lessing
Chad Bledsoe
The Steven Case Family
Judy Dunadas
The Jorge Espenido Family
Tisha Simpson
The Ronald Harrell Family
Kandis Kenny
The Rey Palomo Family

Baptisms:

We would like to announce the following people who were recently baptized into the Catholic Church.

Victoria M. Bradshaw July 28
Kathleen Crystelle Bueno July 28
Sadie Caroline Bekurs July 28
Adam Joseph Harrington Aug. 11
George Carroll Hale, III Aug. 10
Nathaniel Alexander Hale Aug. 10
Nathaniel Alexander Irizarry Aug. 18
Charles Albert Trepagnier Sept. 1
Emily Jean Tew Sept. 1
Vincent Cong Nguyen Sept. 15
Kaitlyn E. Zimmerly Sept. 15
Bryce Liam Gehm Sept. 22
Dayton Joseph Lapierre Oct. 8

Marriages:

We would like to acknowledge the following parishioners who were recently united into the Sacrament of Marriage.

George W. Small Jr. and Barbara Elaine Moore on July 22
Michael Terry Pepper and Carrie Elizabeth Cornwall on August 31
Vinh Quanq Tran and Nhung Honq Vu on September 14

Deaths:

The following people are recently deceased members of our parish for whom we offer our special prayers.

Jacqueline Stone July 12
Robert Dean Houston July 19
Anne Pauline Chaplin Aug. 27
George Gibbs Pafford Sept. 13
Ila Beaudry Sept. 17
John F. Fitzgerald Sept. 23
Diana Roger Belyea Sept. 24
Rita Coscia Sept. 29
Annie Martha Verwey Sept. 30

BISHOP LARKIN
PAYS TRIBUTE

by Frank Becht

Bishop Thomas W. Larkin, founding Pastor of Christ the King, celebrated a special Memorial Mass in the Sacred Heart Chapel on August 1, 2002. Our Pastor, Father Thanh Thai Nguyen, concelebrated the Mass with Bishop Larkin, honoring two founding parishioners, Eleanor Conlin and Richard Schlinkmann. Accompanying Bishop Larkin from Clearwater, Florida was his sister, Clarice Larkin.

Eleanor Conlin along with her husband, Peter, were founding members of the Parish in February 1955; both were very active in various ministries and organizations of the Parish during their lifetime.

Eleanor was a long time Church secretary and bookkeeper before death on July 1, 2002. Richard Schlinkmann and his wife, Klara, served Father Larkin in a very close and personal way. Richard was the original janitor, maintenance man and "jack of all trades" until suffering a serious injury from his duties in the Parish. Richard passed away May 14, 2001. Bishop Larkin says "Richard was my right hand." Klara was housekeeper for Father Larkin for many years.

Both families have maintained a close personal relationship with Bishop Larkin and his sister even after his being appointed Bishop of St. Petersburg. Following the Memorial Mass, which was attended by a group of close friends of each family, a breakfast was served at Famous Amos.

Rain

by Victoria

The rain is God's way of watering all of the plants and also makes them grow so healthy.
by Father Neil Carr S.J.

To say that St. Vincent has been named by the Church as patron of charities, hospitals and prisoners really doesn’t tell us much about the man himself, nor does the fact that he is the patron saint of the republic of Madagascar (Madagascar). But these titles do suggest that he must have been an extraordinary person.

Born of a large peasant family in France, he was quickly spotted by a nobleman as having a sharp and inquisitive mind. So impressed was Monsieur de Comet, a lawyer practicing at the provincial court, that he persuaded Vincent’s father to send the little shepherd boy to school. By doing this, he quite literally gave Vincent to the Church and to France. This was the beginning of long years of study which led him eventually to university degrees in Theology and Canon Law, and ultimately to the priesthood in September of 1600. He was only twenty years old.

A prisoner for awhile in Africa, Vincent spent years in Rome where he charmed all who knew him. He was a brilliant student, but his peasant lineage linked him emotionally with the poor. After many years in which he was a court chaplain, a parish priest and private tutor to nobility, all the while impressing everyone with his eloquence, working at the hospital de la Charite, Vincent discovered within himself a great and human tenderness for all in distress.

The French clergy at the time badly needed, shall we say, reorientation to Gospel values. The realization of this impacted seriously on Vincent de Paul, so much so that he saw that if France was to be rebuilt along Christian lines, the clergy had to be reformed if they were ever effective in leading their people to a holy way of life. For this purpose he founded the religious order of the Congregation of the Missions, the “Vincentians” as we know them today, dedicated to the education of the clergy. Lay Vincentians are vigorously at work today at Christ the King parish here in Jacksonville. I remember clearly when, as a boy in Buffalo (NY), I would accompany my Dad, an old-time doctor always on call for home or hospital (everybody had our home number), to the hospital. There the Sisters of Charity, with their beautiful religious habit, would be scurrying about wherever their nursing skills were needed.

I think it important to realize, as the second Vatican Council pointed out, that the call for helping those less fortunate is not a special hallmark of people who have chosen the priesthood or religious life as a way of life. Ministry can be adequately defined as any human activity that is seen as a continua- tion of Christ’s work. Baptism and Confirmation have imposed on all of us the duty to minister to others in whatever way we can. Lay people, therefore, are not simply “invited” to share in this activity, but must see it as an obligation essential to their Christian vocation.

Realization of this call, intrinsic to living out our Catholic faith, surely inspired the hundreds of men and women who centuries ago chose to give their lives to serving the destitute under the guidance of St. Vincent. In founding the religious Congregation of the Sisters of Charity, he needed someone to assume the responsibility of organizing the more than 700 women who were engaged in his various charitable endeavors. A woman whose spiritual life he had been directing for over ten years seemed a likely choice.

He suggested that she make a long retreat. During that retreat, Louise de Marillac, though a member of France’s nobility, decided to give her life to serving the poor. Vincent then sent her on an inspection visit to various parts of France where the Ladies of Charity were working. In the course of these journeys, Louise displayed an administrative ability and tact which, along with her sanctity, led Vincent to entrust his (now) Sisters of Charity to her care. The Congregation was founded in 1633.

Vincent de Paul died on September 27, 1660. He was 80 years old, and had out-lived Louise de Marillac by only a few months. Now Saints of our Church, they continue to inspire not only those who live their consecrated lives under their banners, but all of us who align ourselves in whatever way to the cause of the poor.

by Mickey Kenny

The baskets were identified by the St. Vincent de Paul Society emblem, and the greeters at each door of every Mass were identified by name tag with the St. Vincent de Paul Society emblem ensconced. The first annual St. Vincent de Paul drive to replenish the pantry was a huge success, and every year it will become more and more precious to everyone in the parish.

Throughout the year, through the generosity of the parish, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is able to visit those in need within our parish boundaries without regard to religion, race, or any other identification. The only thing necessary is to call for help, and to be available for the following up visit to the home.

It is hard for many people to ask for anything. We have been too well schooled in the “more blessed to give than to receive” ethic. We have to admit that it does feel better to give than to receive; but it is impossible to fill a need without any identification of the need.

As Catholics we are called to attend to the needs of everyone in need of anything. It is the task of the Society to find those people in need and to work to fill those needs. Through contributions to the pantry, the First Friday food drive in Christ the King School, and donations to the poor boxes or the Society itself, we are able to act as God’s feet and hands in the carrying of love, prayer, companionship, and we are always ready to help, and to be available for the fellow human beings. It was a day to remember that “as long as you give to the least of these my brothers you have given to me.”

On occasions such as this it is so rewarding to present gifts that it is almost a shame. That being the case, remember the St. Vincent de Paul Society works throughout the year and is available to receive your gifts all the time. The annual Mass in remembrance of St. Vincent de Paul who devoted his life to providing sustenance and justice to the poor, will give us a special opportunity to remember those still in need in our own society. Blessed Frederick Ozanam instituted the Society in the name of St. Vincent de Paul to remind us of the words of Jesus, “The poor you will always have with you,” or “As you have done unto them you have done unto me.”

Senior Citizens

Senior citizens are continually being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary.

We know and we take responsibility for all we have done and do not blame others.

But, upon reflection, we would like to point out that it was NOT the senior who took the . . . melody out of music, pride out of appearance, romance out of love, commitment out of marriage, responsibility out of parenthood, togetherness out of the family, learning out of education, service out of patriotism, Golden Rule from rulers, civility out of behavior, refinement out of language, dedication out of employment, prudence out of spending, or ambition out of achievement...

And we certainly are NOT the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from personal relations and interactions with others!

Remember: Inside every older person is a young person wondering what happened!
Ignatian Spiritual Exercises for the Laity

by Landa Palandin

A small group of people from our parish under the direction of Father Neil Carr has embarked on what this writer considers an extraordinary opportunity to grow and mature in our spiritual life. The founder of the Jesuit Society, Ignatius Loyola, conceived this program of spiritual growth over 450 years ago.

To write with much clarity about these Exercises in the early stages of this program is not an easy task. This writer considers herself in the infant stage as we begin to truly look and examine the assignments that hopefully will make a significant difference in all that we do and say. There are 18 people who have committed themselves to pray and study for an hour each and every day for a period of six to seven months. Ignatius Loyola believed that those who followed these Spiritual Exercises would grow closer to God as it brought about a change in their lives.

Father Carr has broken down our group into two bands that meet together on a regular basis once every two weeks. The smallness of the bands lends itself better for those involved to become open with each other. We are still developing a level of trust as we begin to share insights into our own spiritual growth.

It is very important that once the commitment to these Exercises has been made that the individuals follow the directions. The person is to place himself entirely into God’s hands and allow Him to work in your life. As a matter of fact, Ignatius believed that God himself was to be the person’s director but allows a human instrument, and for us, He has sent Father Carr to explain and guide the retreatants through the Exercises.

The most important function of the director according to our guide book is to require a “certain accountability in our prayer life, clarify obstacles on our journey to spirituality and validate those graces that come from God.”

Father Carr has placed us firmly on the footpath toward spirituality by giving us a framework which allows the individual to grow at their own pace and ability. Each day there is a time of Preparation where the retreatant selects the place where the hour will be spent. It is recommended that one choose the same place every day, as it sets it apart as a special place. The basic attitude one assumes for prayer is one of reverence and the knowledge that God is present with you.

The next step is the prayer itself. It is while we are at prayer that we communicate with God. At the present time our group is in its genesis stage and Father has given us an outline to follow daily. It always begins with the Preparation, which should put us in the right attitude for what is to come. When we are ready there is a Bible passage to read. Father has told us that we are to put ourselves into the passage where we best fit. He says we are “to feel and hear” the Biblical scene. The retreatant reads and prays over the passage and usually there are key phrases that jump out at the reader. Those words and phrases should be written down in a notebook. What do those words or phrase mean to you? Are these words a confirmation of what you have read or do they bother you in some way? Our reaction gives us clues about ourselves. Is God speaking to me in a special way? Is there something here for me to learn and apply to my life?

It has been my experience that God speaks to us in many ways. Perhaps today it is the Scriptures. Many times if you are quiet and wait God speaks to you in your heart. Sometimes He uses people to get through to us. We must just be aware that God is working in our lives.

The third part of our daily Exercise is to reflect on what has happened during this time. Did you receive consolation and love or were you bored or distracted? Do not forget, readers, that we are human and subject to fail at times. Father Carr told the group that your mind tends to wander during prayer and we should “lasso” that thought and bring it right into the prayer. That was an excellent suggestion for this writer as I have a traveling mind. We must always keep in mind that our goal is to grow closer to God. When we have done all that we can for that hour we close always with the Lord’s Prayer.

These few paragraphs are just a hint of what is to come. There is so much involved in doing these Spiritual Exercises but this will give you a teeny sample of what richness must be in store for those who are able to stay the course of the Spiritual Exercises for Laity.

Bishop Kenny Eucharistic Ministers

by Matthew Masters

On August 24 I was installed at Assumption Church as a Eucharistic Minister. There are fifty-four total Eucharistic Ministers now at Bishop Kenny. I am very excited about becoming a Eucharistic Minister because I feel that you become closer to your community by sharing the Body and Blood of Christ. We, the Eucharistic Ministers, serve Mass every morning in the Bishop Kenny chapel at 7:15 a.m. As a Eucharistic Minister I have met other great individuals and have grown a lot spiritually.

Becoming a Eucharistic Minister

by Patrick Carlson

I wanted to become a Eucharistic Minister because I felt God was calling me to give back to my school and to serve Him and others at Mass. Being part of this ministry has given me a new perspective on serving the Lord. Understanding that we are the “Living Body of Christ” and we are created to serve God and His people with the gifts He has given to us is a blessing in itself.

I initially began serving the Lord as an altar server in my days at Christ the King School. When I was a freshman at Bishop Kenny, I set a goal for myself to someday become involved in Campus Ministry. Only Seniors are allowed to become Eucharistic Ministers, so I had some waiting time. I filled that time by being involved in a local Christian Youth Ministry.

The Campus Ministry prepares us with extensive training that included a retreat at Marywood. We not only serve communion, but we are also Lectors at morning Mass in the chapel at BK and we are altar servers. We support BK in other ways as well. We served as tour guides for the Freshman Class and their families and we assisted transferring students during their orientation.

After graduating from BK, I am looking forward to continuing to serve as a Eucharistic Minister at Christ the King and find other ways to volunteer my time to my church in gratitude for the many blessings I have received.
Inside the Parish Council

by Katie Knowsit

Katie will start right off by saying that your Parish Council is fired up with great plans to make this year the best ever. By the time you thought of this article many of you will already be happily involved in the activities that the Parish Council has planned for you. The parishioners of this parish led by our pastor, Father Thanh, are looking forward to serving you further.

Are you aware that this year we celebrate the tenth year of Stewardship in this parish? This is something each and every one of you should take notice of because you made it happen. It is because of your faithful stewardship here at Christ the King that our children are receiving such a wonderful education without having the burden of a monthly tuition fee. That also includes the privilege of attending Bishop Kenny High School. Because of your generosity you have been able to literally bring hundreds into our Catholic Family through RCIA and the Religious Education Program. All the supplies and materials provided for the Vacation Bible School, which enjoyed such enormous success this year, was because of your commitment to Stewardship.

Stewardship is not only about giving of our tithes but is also composed of your time and talents. In this parish of Christ the King giving of time and the amount of talent to be found here surpasses any other parish in Jacksonville. There is no way our parish would be able to accomplish the things it does without the countless man hours put in by volunteers with no thought of recompense. Because of your stewardship we have over forty ministries where people give so freely of themselves that there could be no doubt the message of stewardship has been engraved on the hearts of people at Christ the King.

Because of your faithfulness, the Parish Council, along with the Stewardship Ministry, has decided this year the Time, Talent and Treasure enrollment will be a gala celebration. All sorts of exciting events have been taking place, which will lead up to the culminating activities on the 24th of November. This year, instead of having a breakfast catered by those extraordinary chefs from the Knights of Columbus, they will turn their culinary skills to a luncheon bar-b-que to be served after the noon Mass. What you don’t know is how marvelous the Parish Hall will look! Much thought and preparation have gone into the decorations. You will be surprised and amazed as they will not only be colorful but will reflect all that your Stewardship has been able to accomplish in the last ten years.

The Council is trying to get all the ministries involved to make this ten-year celebration something very special for all of us. So, if you are called upon to volunteer your services in any way, Katie already knows that your answer will be a gracious, “Yes.”

The children of the parish will be an important part of this celebration as they are our future. So much of what goes on around the campus every day is centered on the children. We, the adults, owe it to our children to be the role models and the mentors so when the time comes they too can step into the world as educated Catholics living the gospel message.

The children are counting on you not to let them down and Katie Knowsit.

An open letter to all Ministries

A few months ago, two generous parishioners donated two new parking lot light fixtures, which were installed at the main entrance to the church and at the handicap parking lot behind the fountain. Please take the time to check out these new light fixtures during the evening hours and you will see that they make a very noticeable difference in lighting up these particular areas.

Our goal is to replace all of the light fixtures in the back parking lot and the Larkin Road parking lot. We would like to begin with replacing the three lights in the Larkin Road parking lot by the chapel. Besides Nocturnal Adoration and early morning and evening Mass, there are many evening activities at the church and hall in the fall and winter months when it gets dark early. These fixtures would prove to make the parking areas a much more secure and safe environment.

As a ministry, please consider making a donation towards the purchase of these light fixtures. The cost is $700 per fixture and the installation cost for each light has already been donated by another generous parishioner.

If your ministry can accommodate our request to help make our church and school grounds a more secure and safe environment, please contact me at 726-5502 (home) or 318-5801 (cell).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Klima, Maintenance Supervisor
Christ the King Church and School

Just Asking

by Emily Patricia Medford

It has come to the attention of this writer that there are a number of people who have been talking about the Parish Council. They want to know what makes up the Parish Council and how one becomes a member. What exactly do they do for the parish, if anything? Some people believe that the names of Council members are secret and others are of the opinion that Father Thanh has appointed these people because they are his friends. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The following questions and their respective answers are the ones most commonly asked and hopefully will help our readers be better informed about the members and their duties.

What is the Parish Council?

The Parish Council is made up of representatives of all the ministries that are a part of Christ the King Church. They meet on the first Monday of every month from September through May to report on the activities of their ministries and to coordinate and assist in achieving the goals set forth in our mission statement and by our pastor, Father Thanh Nyguyen.

Are the members of the Parish Council elected?

The members of the Parish Council are not elected but are volunteers from their particular ministry who agree to attend the monthly meetings and report back to their particular ministry the matters discussed at the Council.

Can a parishioner voice his opinion at the meetings?

Yes, there is a time set aside for anyone who would like to come in and address the Council or just speak about a matter that needs to be brought to the attention of the parish. Your thoughts and opinions matter and those who serve on the Council value your input.

The next regular meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, December 2 at 5:30 p.m. in the Rectory. So, if you have a concern or just want to attend to see what goes on in a Parish Council meeting, there is still plenty of time to make plans. You will be most welcome.
We wanted him to look nice. We didn't want anything but overalls. Here he was, dressed in a brown suit, shirt and tie. I only glanced at him and walked out to get the coffin and discovered it contained the body of a woman. Close to the coffin and discovered it was a very good one. There was no need to worry. Instead, he is going to be buried in the cemetery have the same had he been buried in his overalls.

Most recently, another good friend of mine, Jim Foley, a member of St. Patrick's Church in Jacksonville, died. When his wife, Jose called and asked if I would be a pall bearer, she told me, “I am not going to bury him in a suit and tie because he hated that. Instead, he is going to be wearing his Men's Association shirt, which he loved.”

“God bless you,” I replied. “That is perfect.” Immediately, I called the president of the Association and told him of Jose's plan and added, “Instead of wearing suits and ties, why don’t all our members who will be pall bearers wear our shirts in honor of our buddy?” He loved the idea.

It was one of the most striking and meaningful funerals I have attended in almost 80 years. All the pall bearers except one, came dressed in their beautiful green and white Association shirts (one man was a neighbor of Jim’s and not a member so he wore the conventional suit). In addition to those who were active pall bearers, other members wore their shirts, too. When we entered the church the members lined up the aisle forming an honor guard.

At the close of the Mass, there was not a dry eye in the church as all these friends carried Jim’s body out to the hearse. Several days later, Jose told me it was the most beautiful funeral she had ever witnessed. She really felt peace and at home in her heart knew that Jim did, too, and “All of his closest friends dressed in their shirts just like him, was an expression of love and support beyond words.”

Jim Foley worked hard all his life ever since emigrating from Ireland in 1963 with Jose. He was not a lawyer or a stock broker – he was a country boy from a very good one. There is no need to worry. Instead, he is going to be buried in the cemetery have the same had he been buried in his overalls.

A Memorable Funeral

by Ray Walker

About 15 years ago an old friend of mine died. In the ten or so years I had known him, quite often he and I would get together at the fence that separated our homes and talk. He was a country boy from Cairo, Georgia, and I was born in a large Northern city and raised in apartment buildings. We had absolutely nothing in common but we became fast friends. I loved to hear him tell about life growing up on a farm in a small, rural community.

His death was a real, personal loss to me. I went to the funeral home for the viewing. The next day he was to be buried in the cemetery of an old family church in Cairo.

There were two people in different rooms at the mortuary ready for burial the next day. I went alone into the first room and walked up to the coffin. I saw a man in a nice brown suit, shirt and tie. I only glanced at him and walked out to the next room where there were a number of people gathered but I did not recognize any of them. You can imagine my surprise when I came close to the coffin and discovered it contained the body of a woman.

Out in the hall again, one of the attendants whom I knew said, “You look lost. Can I help?”

“Yes,” I answered. “A friend of mine, Mr. Butler, is supposed to be here but I can’t find him.”

“He’s right here,” he said, pointing to the first room I had been in.

“You’re kiddin’,” was all I could blurt out.

Back in the room with the man in the brown suit, I took a long look at the body. Yes, it was really him. And I couldn’t believe it.

In all the years I had known him, I never saw him dressed in anything but overalls. Here he was, in a business suit with a shirt and tie. At that moment one of his sons entered the parlor.

“I didn’t recognize him,” I said.

“We wanted him to look nice. We bought a suit for him,” he answered. All I could think of was, this is not the wonderful, old-country boy I had enjoyed over all these years.

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At the close of the Mass, there was not a dry eye in the church as all these friends carried Jim’s body out to the hearse. Several days later, Jose told me it was the most beautiful funeral she had ever witnessed. She really felt peace and at home in her heart knew that Jim did, too, and “All of his closest friends dressed in their shirts just like him, was an expression of love and support beyond words.”

Jim Foley worked hard all his life ever since emigrating from Ireland in 1963 with Jose. He was not a lawyer or a stock broker – he was a country boy from a very good one. There is no need to worry. Instead, he is going to be buried in the cemetery have the same had he been buried in his overalls.

A Memorable Funeral

by Ray Walker

About 15 years ago an old friend of mine died. In the ten or so years I had known him, quite often he and I would get together at the fence that separated our homes and talk. He was a country boy from Cairo, Georgia, and I was born in a large Northern city and raised in apartment buildings. We had absolutely nothing in common but we became fast friends. I loved to hear him tell about life growing up on a farm in a small, rural community.

His death was a real, personal loss to me. I went to the funeral home for the viewing. The next day he was to be buried in the cemetery of an old family church in Cairo.

There were two people in different rooms at the mortuary ready for burial the next day. I went alone into the first room and walked up to the coffin. I saw a man in a nice brown suit, shirt and tie. I only glanced at him and walked out to the next room where there were a number of people gathered but I did not recognize any of them. You can imagine my surprise when I came close to the coffin and discovered it contained the body of a woman.

Out in the hall again, one of the attendants whom I knew said, “You look lost. Can I help?”

“Yes,” I answered. “A friend of mine, Mr. Butler, is supposed to be here but I can’t find him.”

“He’s right here,” he said, pointing to the first room I had been in.

“You’re kiddin’,” was all I could blurt out.

Back in the room with the man in the brown suit, I took a long look at the body. Yes, it was really him. And I couldn’t believe it.

In all the years I had known him, I never saw him dressed in anything but overalls. Here he was, in a business suit with a shirt and tie. At that moment one of his sons entered the parlor.

“I didn’t recognize him,” I said.

“We wanted him to look nice. We bought a suit for him,” he answered. All I could think of was, this is not the wonderful, old-country boy I had enjoyed over all these years.

Recently, another good friend of mine, Jim Foley, a member of St. Patrick’s Church in Jacksonville, died. When his wife, Jose called and asked if I would be a pall bearer, she told me, “I am not going to bury him in a suit and tie because he hated that. Instead, he is going to be wearing his Men's Association shirt, which he loved.”

“God bless you,” I replied. “That is perfect.” Immediately, I called the president of the Association and told him of Jose’s plan and added, “Instead of wearing suits and ties, why don’t all our members who will be pall bearers wear our shirts in honor of our buddy?” He loved the idea.

It was one of the most striking and meaningful funerals I have attended in almost 80 years. All the pall bearers except one, came dressed in their beautiful green and white Association shirts (one man was a neighbor of Jim’s and not a member so he wore the conventional suit). In addition to those who were active pall bearers, other members wore their shirts, too. When we entered the church the members lined up the aisle forming an honor guard.

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retired school teachers, business professionals, homemakers. Their common denominator is love of God, family and community. They have numerous responsibilities and meet each month, year around. Realizing that nothing is accomplished without God’s help, the meetings are opened with prayer and reflection on the scriptural references to stewardship. At these meetings, they discuss and review many situations that have arisen and help solve problems pertaining to Stewardship. They handle all the mail-outs to the parishioners regarding stewardship. They also assist in the planning and executing of parish meetings, dinners, etc. and they attend Diocesan Stewardship meetings and the International Catholic Stewardship Convention.

Parish - Christ the King has a parish school with 550 students. The children are taught the spirituality of stewardship and are encouraged to be good stewards, by being kind and helpful to one another and to their families. All the children grade levels 3 through 8 participate in an essay contest on the characteristics of a Christian Steward. Prizes are awarded and the children learn a valuable lesson, while doing something they enjoy. All students have envelopes for Sunday Mass and may put in a monetary offering or a note indicating something they have done to help someone during the week. Money collected from the children, is spent on charities of the students choice. We have 180 students who attend Catholic High School and 25 who attend our Diocesan Special Education School. Tuition for all of these students is paid by the parish. In an effort to teach them the importance of using their time and talents, students in grade 9 through 12 are required to give 40 service hours annually. Eighth grade students are required to give 20 service hours to the parish or to the community. Since there are many opportunities to work in groups they learn there is often fun and fellowship in helping others.

Once we began our Stewardship Program as a way of life, we told our parishioners they would no longer be fund-raisers, bazaars, bake sales etc. but we would rely on the generosity of the people. We receive through the offertory collection for the financial support of our church and school. The people responded with enthusiasm and have honored their financial pledges to well over 60% of their Time and Talent. This program has been a life saver to many young families as well as our single parent families.

Our weekly offertory collection when we began this program in 1992 was $12,000.00. Our average through 2002 is $50,200.00. There is a new spirit in the parish and a pride in what has been accomplished and thousands of volunteer hours have made Christ the King a vibrant and caring parish with a real sense of community and a willingness to help one another. The parish in turn has increased its program of hospitality. We celebrate Saint Patrick’s day with a dinner without God and that we needed to expand and the personal sacrifice in honoring their pledges. Hospitality is also an important part of a successful stewardship program, whether it is being greeted at Mass, sharing a cup of coffee and a doughnut after Sunday Mass or attending a parish dinner, it is all a part of belonging to a faith community and sharing our blessings.

Daily adoration is held every day (Monday - Friday) from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m. on weekdays. It is a time when we come to pray. We firmly believe that the Stewardship Program would not have been successful without God and that we needed to thank Him continually for His blessings. We also have Nocturnal Adoration on the First Friday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The people want to pray. We firmly believe that the Stewardship Program would not have been successful without God and that we needed to thank Him continually for His blessings.

We have done this with a community outreach program, which benefits members of our city who need help. We have done this with a community outreach program, which benefits members of our city who need help. Since 1994 our parish has built four homes for Habitat for Humanity providing both funding and labor for these houses. We are also members of a Catholic Coalition that has built ten more homes.

Our parish established a community health clinic in 1993 and it has been a real blessing to many people who do not have access to medical treatment. The clinic is staffed by volunteer doctors, nurses, and technicians and is offered free to those in need.

I. M. Sulzbacher, our local homeless shelter is another part of the parish outreach program. We transport the food and volunteers to serve dinner at the shelter once a month.

We provide help for people who are in need through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. A group of dedicated parishioners at Christ the King work with the community to provide food and other essentials for those in need. There is an office set up in the rectory staffed by members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society to help walk-ins and take phone calls from people who need immediate help. At Thanksgiving and Christmas this organization provides baskets of food for those who need help during the holidays.

This is funded by members of Christ the King, who are always ready to help those in need.

During the Christmas season our parishioners provide gifts for children and adults by participating in the Advent Tree Program. Last year, we were able to give 2000 gifts to families, nursing home residents, children in orphanages and others.

One of our newer ministries is the MOMS (Ministry of Mothers Sharing) is about women helping women and their families. They are a program for women to help one another and is for all women; single women raising families, married women and grandparents.

The Prayer Network is a ministry begun three years ago and has been very successful. The charperson works closely with the priests to help keep them informed of people who are sick, or who are in need of prayer. Each week an updated list is given to everyone who has signed up to pray for the sick and for their caretakers, as well as people who need prayers for any reason.

In May of 1998 the first issue of our parish newspaper "Christ the King Courier" was published. It is an entirely volunteer project and has been enthusiastically received. Our first issue was a 2 page edition and since that time we have grown to 44. It is published quarterly and includes articles that keep our parishioners up to date on church and school happenings, informs us of coming events and other items of interest. This has proved to be a powerful stewardship message.

Another program established in the parish four years ago is LIFE House for Mentally Challenged Adults. Our pastor believes that we needed to reach out to our teens and he asked one of our parishioners to help him set up a program for them. This has proved to be a wonderful program for the teens and their parents.

Stewardship as a way of life is a part of everything we do in the parish - we have a number of Faith Sharing Small Groups who meet at their homes to reach out to others and to enjoy fellowship with one another. Christ the King has another blessing many parishes do not, that is a L’Arche (Harbor House) for mentally challenged adults partially funded by Christ the King and located on the church property. They attend many parish functions and attend church daily. It is well attended as Sunday Mass. Sharing the Eucharist with these wonderful people and their loving caregivers brings home the message of service to our fellow man.

In November of each year we have our Stewardship renewal program. On the first week we have a Time and Talent Fair, which gives each ministry an opportunity to showcase their ministries and for parishioners to become acquainted with the various ministries and decide where their individual interests and talents lie. Our parish has more than 60 ministries and covers such a broad spectrum that everyone in the parish is capable of participating in one or more ministry. A spirit of friendly competition exists in preparing displays, and prizes are awarded for the three exhibits which are judged best. This has proved to be a lot of fun for all involved.

The second Sunday of November we all have an opportunity to sign up for the ministries we feel best suit our time and talent.

The third Sunday of November we have guest speakers, parishioners who share their own stories of their journey into stewardship and the many benefits they have experienced as a result. On the fourth Sunday an opportunity to renew our pledges is presented by signing a new pledge card. This year we have a special treat in store for our parish - Monsignor Danaher, who initiated the stewardship program will speak at all Masses. Following the Noon Mass a dinner will be served and a special celebration is planned.

In 1997 our pastor, Monsignor Danaher, who initiated our Stewardship Program announced plans to retire after more than 20 years as our spiritual leader. He was followed by Father Robert Baker who enthusiastically supported our Stewardship Program. In less than two years, Father Baker was appointed Bishop of Charleston, South Carolina. While the parish rejoiced in Bishop Baker’s new appointment, we were sorry to lose our pastor.
**Stewardship**

Bishop Snyder appointed Father Robert McDermott to become our fifth pastor. Father McDermott also supported our Stewardship Program and continued with renovations began by Father Robert Baker (now Bishop of Charleston, South Carolina.) In about a year Father McDermott was also transferred from Christ the King. Bishop Snyder appointed our present pastor Father Thanh Thai Nguyen in 2001 and our Stewardship program continued without interruption. This is a great tribute to these dedicated pastors and all the families of Christ the King Parish.

If there is a message for us to share with other parishes who may want to embrace stewardship, it is to make each person aware that he or she is a valuable part of the faith community, regardless of how much or how little time, talent or treasure they are able to contribute.

For us this ministry is unique. It gives us a chance to meet all kinds of people. This happens at weddings, funerals, visiting the sick or homebound, and weekly or daily Mass.

We spend a lot of our time behind the scenes with preparation, making sure that there are enough cups for the wine, ciborium for the hosts, and that the priests chalice that will be used for the celebration is ready and waiting.

After everything is ready, then we relax and enjoy the warm feeling of knowing that we have helped in some small way to prepare the meal that will be shared with our entire church family.

There is a bonding between the Eucharistic Minister and the people we serve. A sharing that comes from the slight contact when the cup is passed or the Host is placed in a person's hand. Christ Jesus is the bond that brings us together.

When visiting the sick in the hospital, the comradery is felt as you sit and talk a few minutes after giving Communion. If you are visiting in a home, the feelings are the same. The only difference is that in the home family members might also be there.

This is a ministry of service where the people that join are called by God. Sometimes you feel the calling within yourself or perhaps someone else sees that you would be the right person for the job and invites you to become a Eucharistic Minister. However it's done, new Eucharistic Ministers are always welcome.

If you are interested in joining our ministry, contact any Eucharistic Minister who will show you where the applications are kept in the Sacristy. Feel free to come fill one out and turn it in or call Kathy or Rich Daniels at 743-9441.

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**Eucharistic Ministry and Hospitality**

Continued

**Stewardship Celebrates**

Stewardship in action

LIFE Support

**Natural Family Planning**

by Rich & Kathy Daniels

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**Natural Family Planning**

by Rose Mary Danforth

We now have a Natural Family Planning Support Group in our diocese. It meets on the second Saturday of each month at 6 P.M. in the Family Life Center at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Blanding Boulevard on Jacksonville’s Westside. There is a nursery available, and you are encouraged to bring a snack to share. Please come with your questions and learn the Church’s teaching on family planning. We examine Humanae Vitae and the other pertinent encyclicals.

Hope to see you there. Call Lisa at 744-2744 for more information.
**Sponsor Couple Program**

by Mary Verrette

What makes a marriage successful? There are as many answers to that question as there are married couples. A sense of humor, forgiveness, and never going to bed angry are probably some of the top responses. Certainly, being prepared couldn’t hurt. Boy Scouts are trained to “Be Prepared.” We prepare for vacations, parties, careers, and childbirth. We painstakingly prepare for the wedding day, its ceremony, style, and reception afterward. But how many of us prepare for what lies beyond that day and its glamour, when everyday life and reality take their toll, and marriage is no longer a novelty? That is what the diocesan Sponsor Couple Program is all about, and it is one of three marriage preparation programs offered in our parish.

My husband, Rick, and I have been privileged to be a part of the Sponsor Couple Program since 1988. It was simple to get trained; we just participated in the six-week program as if we were an engaged couple about to be married. We observed how our sponsor couple made us feel relaxed and welcome, and provided a safe atmosphere and privacy in their home for the presentations. We met one night a week for the six weeks, and each time covered a different topic, ranging from Communication in Marriage to Marriage as a Sacrament.

The diocesan program provides the topic and outline of each meeting, and the sponsor couple simply shares their experiences about those topics. The engaged couple is then given private time for discussion. It is an excellent opportunity for the engaged couple to be exposed to the inner workings of a marriage, and to share their thoughts and expectations for their marriage with each other. It opens doors to topics that the couple may not have thought of discussing before, and affirms the areas of strength they share.

We continue to be amazed at the gift that the program is in our lives. We have shared the same topics and outline with many couples over the last fourteen years, and yet it is never the same. As our life circumstances change, so does what we have to share. It is an opportunity for my husband and to reflect on our own marriage, and it is time well spent. The Lord will not be outdone in generosity. Another unexpected bonus is that we get to meet and know the new families that will be a part of our church community. We feel that the Sponsor Couple Program is a very important ministry within our parish, and probably one of the less known. This program is always ready to accept married couples who would like to share their marriage experiences with our engaged couples. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor couple, or would simply like more information, please call the Program Coordinators, Jim and MaryAnn Middleton, at 743-3953.

**Holiday Survivorship Skills**

submitted by Isabelle Frusco

The holidays are a traditional time of joy and laughter, sparkle and glitter, sharing and gift-giving. But for people who are grieving, the holidays may seem inappropriate, affronting and painful.

With that in mind, here are some suggestions for this holiday season:

**Helpful Hints for Surviving the Holidays**

1. **Acknowledge Grief Work as Real Work**
   - Adjustment to the death or dying of someone close to you does not simply come with time. The work of grief demands that you deal with all feelings that loss engenders. This work takes psychic and physical energy that can leave you unable to deal with the extra demands of the holiday season.

2. **Allow Yourself to Be Merely Human**
   - Avoid expectations of perfection for the holidays. Let some things slide. If you really want to do all the cooking and baking, let the dusting go. Enlist the aid of others "in the holiday spirit of giving." You do not have to do it all yourself this time.

3. **Plan Ahead**
   - Sit down with your family and friends ahead of time to discuss and decide those activities, experiences, and people that make the holidays special for you. Decide to do a few special things with a few special people, not everything with everybody.

4. **Set Limits**
   - Tell your family, friends, and yourself now—and continue to remind them—that you are on a stress reduction diet this holiday season. You will not be over-doing, over-shopping, over-cooking, over-answering, or over-worrying this year. Put a sign on your bathroom mirror or refrigerator to remind yourself or others.

5. **Change Shoulds to Wants**
   - Be aware of your own statements to yourself. Are you saying "I should do this or that?" Decide which of your "shoulds" you really want to do and make those your priorities. Remember: You should not "should" yourself, there are enough other people doing that already.

6. **Strive for a Balanced Lifestyle**
   - With all the parties and demands of the holidays, it is difficult for anyone to get enough rest and exercise. It is easy to overindulge. **Set Exercise as a Priority**—It is an antidote to depression. **Learn Relaxation Techniques**—They are an antidote to stress. Don’t Overdo the Eggnog—Alcohol is an antidote for nothing.

7. **Tell Others Clearly What You Want and Need for the Holidays**
   - Do not be shy or embarrassed to let others know what you want from them in terms of emotional support, help or sharing. Mind-reading of yours or others’ needs is best left to fortune tellers. Unknown expectations generally go unfulfilled and lead to disappointment and bad feelings.

8. **Honor the Old/Create the New**
   - This holiday time may not be like previous ones. But what will it be like? Realistically, this may be the last holiday with your ill family member. How can you make it the best?

   - If this is the first holiday time without your family member, include your deceased loved one to the extent that you can. “What supportive and caring thing would he or she want” the family of his or her will be with you this holiday season no matter what you do. Consider giving gifts in acknowledgment of your loving family member or in memorial to the deceased; consider giving love to others in honor of the love you have received. Only you can put the joy in the holidays.

9. **Be Generous to Yourself**
   - The holidays are a time of real and symbolic gift-giving. What are you giving yourself this season? When the new year rolls in, what will be your answer to the question: “What supportive and caring thing did I do for myself this holiday season?”

10. **Celebrate Life**
   - It seems like an impossibility for someone in grief to find joy and peace at any time, much less during the season for joy and peace. This is your challenge. Life is worth living only to the extent that we make it so. Survivorship means more than merely surviving; it means fully living. Search for a living path for you and start now!
I walked into the grocery store not particularly interested in buying groceries. I wasn’t hungry. The pain of losing my husband of 37 years was still too raw. And this grocery store held so many sweet memories.

Rudy often came with me and almost every time he’d pretend to go off and look for something special. I knew what he was up to. I’d always spot him walking down the aisle with the three yellow roses in his hands. Rudy knew I loved yellow roses.

With a heart filled with grief, I only wanted to buy my few items and get out. Even grocery shopping was different since Rudy had passed on. Shopping for one took time, a little more thought than it had for two. Standing by the meat, I searched for the perfect small steak and remembered how Rudy had loved his steak. Suddenly a woman came beside me. She was blond, slim and lovely in a soft green pant suit. I watched as she picked up a large pack of T-bones, dropped them in her basket, hesitated, and then took them back. She turned to go and once again reached for the pack of steaks.

She saw me watching her and she smiled. “My husband loves T-bones, but honestly, at these prices, I don’t know.”

I swallowed the emotion down my throat and met her pale blue eyes. “My husband passed away eight days ago,” I told her. Glancing at the package in her hands, I fought to control the tremble in my voice. “Buy him the steaks. And cherish every moment you have together.” She shook her head and I saw the emotion in her eyes as she placed the package in her basket and wheeled away.

I turned and pushed my cart across the length of the store to the dairy products. There I stood, trying to decide which size ice cream I should buy. A quart, I finally decided and moved on to the ice cream section near the front of the store. If nothing else, I could always fix myself an ice cream cone. I placed the ice cream in my cart and looked down the aisle toward the front.

I saw first the green suit, then recognized the pretty lady coming towards me. In her arms she carried a beautiful long, stemmed yellow roses in her arms. “These are for you,” she said and placed three lovely in my eyes. “When you go through the line, they will know these are paid for.”

She leaned over and placed a gentle kiss on my cheek, then smiled again. I wanted to tell her what she’d done, what the roses meant, but still unable to speak. I watched as she walked away as tears clouded my vision.

I looked down at the beautiful roses nestled in the green tissue wrapping and found it almost surreal. How did she know? Suddenly the answer seemed so clear.

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T h a n k  y o u ,  L o r d

Of Equal Importance is the Horizontal

by Barbara Hanuscik

Most of us are here at Christ the King Parish because we realize the vertical relationship with Christ is vitally important.

Life’s experiences are sometimes deeply disappointing and other times nearly devastating. Disappointments are deeper when the source of the disappointment is someone we look up to or cherish. Disappointment can come from the actions – intentional or unintentional – of someone we consider a “best friend.” The pain of disappointment can come from a spouse who took vows to love, honor, and cherish us and has not been as true as the vows as we have been. The disappointment can come from someone we have trusted with a confidence only to learn that they ran with our confidence to the nearest “grapevine.”

Disappointment or disillusionment can come from a priest, or pastor, whom we may have turned to for support in a moment of grief. Perhaps the pastoral figure meant well but his words were not compassionate and understanding as needed by the grieving person. Perhaps you may have looked up to someone as a “hero” or role model because of the words they delivered only to find their actions are not consistent with their words. This is readily seen in “politicians.”

Often we place too much importance on one “individual” in our lives, and when this one person proves to be an “earthen vessel” and simply “mortal” as we all are, we find we have set ourselves up for disappointment with unrealistic expectations of someone else.

There is a lot of disillusionment being felt by Catholics at this time with the way some clergy behaved as if they were underlings these situations to cover up the actions of others. No matter what the motive, it has caused pain within our universal Church. Our Church will undergo a period of grief complete with all the stages: shock, disbelief, bargaining, anger, sadness and acceptance. We will move back and forth throughout the stages while the healing begins.

Lately, I have encountered more openness and less fear of discussion coming from those who may have had disappointments or have been disillusioned. This is either by accident or by Divine Guidance. I would prefer to believe the latter. Some folks may have simply started going to another Catholic Church and recently returned to what, for them, used to “feel like their home” at Christ the King. Some have admitted to leaving their Catholicism for a number of years before returning to their faith.

All who have shared their stories lately have done so without being asked. All share the common feeling of loneliness, of someone we have loved and themselves. That “vertical” is what kept them going through their rough periods. This openness to talk about their experiences is one of the first steps in the “healing process.”

Father Guy Noonan not long ago delivered an excellent homily on the importance of our “horizontal” relationship with the “Body of Christ” as well as our “vertical” relationship with Christ. Father Elvezio Augustine and other speakers at a Lenten Retreat in the West Indies, stressed the theme of Reconciliation and Evangelization. Their thoughts in line with being reconciled with your neighbor before you can truly be reconciled with God and unless this reconciliation takes place, you will not be able to be an evangelizer for God.

This writer’s thoughts are that until one is undergoing a struggle in his or her “horizontal” one may not have heard the message. This writer recently underwent a struggle with the “horizontal” and thanks the Lord for putting the writer physically “horizontal” so that the importance of the “horizontal” relationship could be experienced.

A medical emergency occurred that could have been life threatening but actually turned out to be spiritually “life saving.” What better place to have an emergency than in your “church home” where you are not “home alone.” A nurse, a parishioner, who was getting ready to move to another area to study as a Physician’s Assistant immediately offered medical assistance.

Members of our faith community with whom I had not had much contact of late, all rallied to my aid. Some new friends were there to lend assistance but the old “family” was there. Former members of a small faith sharing group were right by my side. One was an usher who chased a car away from the yellow curb area so rescue vehicles could get close and he also asked the priest to request prayers on my behalf.

Eucharistic Ministers brought the Eucharist to the hospital. Past members of my CKCCW circle were calling offering prayers, love, and support. Fellow Vincentians were right there with support and prayers. Even the proverbial “grapevine” assisted by forming a chain of contacts reaching someone who knew how to reach my natural family members who reside out of this area.

Some church members employed by the hospital I was in even stopped by to check on me. New friends I have come in contact with through the Parish Nurse Ministry were there with support, and even transportation home from the hospital. Friends provided a meal upon my return home. I was sent get well greetings and received many phone calls of concern. 

Upon my return to my “church home” I was gifted with hugs and even a few kisses and told by so many that they had been praying for me. I want them all to know that their prayers are felt and they worked and will continue to work in both physical and spiritual ways. The “horizontal” relationship is definitely alive at Christ the King, but it is not dependent on one individual person – friend, priest, pastor, or ministry. The “horizontal” relationship is how we relate to one another together as the “Body of Christ.”

This “horizontal” relationship is one that we all must remember during this time of “healing” whether it is within the Catholic Church or on a more personal level within our own hearts. The reconciliation that starts with our relationships to our God will enable us to be true Evangelizers for Christ to all who meet us on our journey through this world. Christ could have chosen another means of death but He chose the cross to demonstrate the “vertical” and the “horizontal” to us all. We just have to fix our eyes on the Cross to see it all.

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Nocturnal Adoration Society Chapter Observes 40th Anniversary

The Christ the King Chapter of the Nocturnal Adoration Society recently observed the 40th anniversary of its founding way back in 1962 when Fr. Thomas Larkin was pastor. Actually, early extant records differ on just when the chapter observed its first nocturnal hours - was it late 1961 or early 1962? - so it was decided by the membership that, since 40 years sounds better than 41 when observing an anniversary, the chapter would go with a founding date of 1962.

Did you know that during calendar year 2001 the local chapter observed almost 900 hours of nightly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament? Faithful members who make the monthly “meeting” hail from Christ the King, Assumption, Holy Spirit, Resurrection, and San Jose parishes. Do any members come from other parishes?

Just like the recruiting poster for the seminary always says, “There’s always room for one more!” Won’t you consider joining us next month? Remember, there are no dues, no collections, it’s all indoor “work”, restrooms are nearby, seating is ample, no times shares presentations, or sales pitches, and you can come as you are.

The November 2002 NAS Letter has a great story about St. John Marie Vianney who, upon arriving at the remote little village of Ars in France, was told by a resident, “Here there is nothing to be done.”

“Then, there is everything to be done,” replied the future saint.

And he began immediately to act. What did he do? He rose at two o'clock in the morning and went to pray near the altar in the dark church. He recited the Divine Office, he made his meditation, and he prepared himself for Holy Mass. After the Holy Sacrifice, he made his thanksgiving. Then he remained at prayer until noon. He would always be kneeling on the floor without any support, with a Rosary in his hand and his eyes fixed on the tabernacle.

Things continued this way for a short time. Then God had to start changing his timetable; and things reached a point requiring radical changes in his program. The Eucharistic Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary, little by little, drew souls to that poor parish, until the church did not seem big enough to contain the crowds, and the confessional of the holy Cure became swamped with endless lines of penitents.

How did such a transformation ever come about? Only God could work such a transformation. It is all due to Him, to the divine and infinite power of the Eucharist, to the almighty force of attraction which radiates from every tabernacle, and which radiated from the tabernacle of Ars, reaching souls through the ministry of this holy priest. (quoted from Jesus Our Eucharistic Love, by Father Stefano M. Manelli, F.F.I.)

Parishioners who remember when Christ the King Catholic Church began back in 1954 in a surplus WWII Quonset hut on the grounds of what became Jacksonville University can draw some comparisons to the above story. If you cannot become a member of the rotating bands please consider coming during one of the non-rotating hours between 6 and 10 pm on Friday night or on Saturday morning from 6 to 8 am. We especially need parishioners to come between 6 and 7 am on Saturday morning and join with Monica Crisp, Judy Forbes, and the entire Register family!

I’ll be happy to answer any questions about the Society chapter.

Closing the Holy Spirit, Resurrection, and San Jose parishes.

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Parish Nurse Ministry ~ Medication Discounts for Seniors

by Barbara Hanuscin LPN, NMCC

More and more often seniors are faced with prescription benefits, through their insurers that have spending limits that may be reached well before the end of the year. The average senior spends about $2,150.00 on prescriptions yearly.

There are ways seniors can help reduce their spending on prescriptions. One is to ask their physician if there is a generic form of the prescribed medication. Another is to ask if there is a less expensive brand that has the same efficacy.

Seniors should not be bashful about asking their physician if samples are available in the office or if the medication is available in drug give-a-way programs from the large pharmaceutical companies who provide specific medications free through the physician.

Pharmaceutical companies also offer Medication Discount Cards such as the following:

To Enroll - 866-974-CARE

To Enroll - 888-3000 or www.lillyanswers.com

To Enroll - 877-RX-LILLY or www.lillyanswers.com

To Enroll - 800-717-6005

Formulary-Select Pfizer products

Discount - $15.00 fee for up to 30-day supply of select medicines

Discount - Estimated savings of 25% or more.

References: Pharmacist’s Prescriber’s Letter

Praise to God

Almighty are You, O Lord! Before You we stand, citing praise in Your name.

Divine Glory! Everlasting is Your love, for we always feel its warm caresses.

God, O God! Hailed are You by all. I, a sinner, hear your call.

Joyful are we to hear Your name! Kindness flows from Your hands. Loving is Your gracious heart.

Many thanks and praise we shed to You. Never-ending is our love for You, O Lord, my God, my Saviour!

Pain You have endured for us, Quelling our waiting for passage into Your kingdom, Redeeming us of our sins.

Sacred are You, O Lord! U are #1 in Holiness. Very great is Your power! Whoever tests it is cast down.

X-travagant is the source of Thy power! You are worthy of such great praise! Zany are those who mock You!
Good and Faithful Servants

by Ray Walker

With a record of service going back to the very founding of Christ the King Church in 1954 which is not equaled by many, Frank and Mary Helen Redmond are looking forward with great joy to the 50th anniversary of their beloved church and their own involvement. In addition to this service, they have devoted almost an equal number of years volunteering for their community in one capacity or another.

They were both born in Kentucky – Frank in Louisville and Mary Helen in Owensboro. When Frank was three years of age his family moved to St. Augustine, Florida. In 1946 Frank was visiting relatives in his home state and met his future bride. Cupid began shooting his arrows all over the place and they were married in 1947, settling in St. Augustine where Frank worked for the railroad.

A job opportunity for Frank came open with the newly created Regional Office of the Prudential Insurance Company in Jacksonville, necessitating their move to this area, coincidental with the establishment of Christ the King parish. In those days there were two primary organizations in the American Church – the Holy Name Society for men and the Guild for women. Almost all other activities emanated from these two assemblies – bereavement dinners, bazaars, picnics, etc. From day one Frank was active in the Holy Name Society and Mary Helen in the Guild.

While their two boys, Frank, III, and Donald, were young both parents worked in the Boy Scouts. Bob Coyle, another Christ the King parisioner, resurrected the old Troop 5 designation from Immaculate Conception parish, which was one of the first in the State of Florida and soon became recognized as one of the best.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was formed at Christ the King in 1961 with Jack Cody as President, Frank Redmond, Vice President, Gene Bush, Treasurer, and Fred Willing in charge of the larder. The Nocturnal Adoration Society started in 1963 and both Redmonds have been active in it ever since (nearly 40 years).

Frank has been a Eucharistic Minister since 1975 with Mary Helen joining him in 1985. They both served at the 5 pm Mass on Saturday and cover Sacristans duties when needed. As you can see, many of these ministries have been simultaneous for a long time.

As though these church related services were not enough, Frank and Mary Helen have devoted many years in doing good works for their community. Since 1995 Christ the King and St. Pius V Churches have teamed up to help out at the Salzbacher Center for the Homeless in downtown Jacksonville every third Tuesday of the month. They serve supper at the Center with food provided by their respective churches.

After Frank’s open heart surgery in 1988 both he and Mary Helen have devoted many years in doing good works for their community. Since 1995 Christ the King and St. Pius V Churches have teamed up to help out at the Salzbacher Center for the Homeless in downtown Jacksonville every third Tuesday of the month. They serve supper at the Center with food provided by their respective churches.

After Frank’s open heart surgery in 1988 both he and Mary Helen joined the Mended Hearts Association. They visit patients in Memorial Hospital who are about to undergo cardiac surgery or who are recovering from such an operation. They comfort these people and advise them as to what they can expect. This is an extremely valuable and worthwhile service, and they are some of the very few who volunteer to do this work. Every Thursday you may find them at Memorial sharing their love and compassion.

The Mended Hearts Association also regularly man Health Fair tables during which various corporations throughout the First Coast area provide the space for the volunteers to meet with the public and disseminate helpful information relative to heart issues. A Heart Walk is held during which the public walks and makes financial contributions to the American Heart Association. (When I interviewed the Redmonds for this article they worked at Memorial Hospital on Thursday, worked a Health Fair on Friday, participated in a Heart Walk on Saturday, were Eucharistic Ministers on Saturday evening, then went to the Salzbacher Center the following Tuesday – Wow! What a schedule!)

Since Mary Helen had worked at Prudential, in 2002 her name was submitted in a contest there as an Outstanding Volunteer, and she won an award with a cash payment for the beloved Mended Hearts.

For those of us who “can’t find the time or the energy” to volunteer in our church or community, consider this – all this work is being done, right today, by Mary Helen who has had two serious cancer operations in the past 24 years (the most recent just a couple of years ago) and by Frank who endured open heart surgery 14 years ago.

If these two people are not a source of inspiration to all of us, no one could ever be. In Matthew 25:21 we are told that on the Day of Judgement, God will say to the elect, “Well done, my good and faithful servant . . . come, share your Master’s joy.” This is the perfect epitaph for both Frank and Mary Helen Redmond.

Red Hats Are in Jacksonville

by Jean Sell

They are not Monsignors, Bishops, or Cardinals, but, if you have gone out to lunch around town and seen a group of women wearing Red Hats and Purple Dresses, they are members of The Red Hat Society. There are many chapters around town, “The La Tea Da’s”, the “SOB’s (Silly Old Bittys)”, and the “Red Hat Party Girls” to name a few. Only you have to be over 50 and have genuine enthusiasm for whatever life brings. There are no rules, dues, and you don’t even have to act your age.

You can find out more information at www.redhatsociety.com or call Shirley Mosley, 744-9522, or Jean Sell, 744-5937, for upcoming events.

When I Am An Old Woman

by Jenny Joseph

I shall wear purple with a red hat which doesn’t go, and doesn’t suit me. And I shall spend my pension on brandy and gloves, And golden sandals, and say we’ve no money for butter. I shall sit down on the pavement when I’m tired And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells; And run my stick along the public railings; And make up for the sobriety of my youth. I shall go out in my slippers in the rain. And pick the flowers in other people’s gardens and learn how to spit. I will wear terrible shirts and grow more fat. And eat three pounds of sausages at a go; Or only bread and pickles for a week; And hoard pens and pencils and things. But now we must have clothes that keep us dry; And pay our rent and not swear in the street; And set a good example for the children. We will have friends to dinner and read the papers. But maybe I ought to practice a little now? So people who know me now are not too shocked and surprised When suddenly I am old and start to wear purple.
The GIRM (3rd Edition) Ready for Activation

by Mary Alice Callahan

In early September the Diocese of St. Augustine sponsored a workshop for priests and liturgical leaders regarding liturgical changes in the Mass that will become effective on the first Sunday of Advent. The site for this event was the Most Holy Redeemer Church. The pastor of this beautiful church is Father Tom Willis who is also the chairperson of the Liturgical Commission for this diocese.

The meeting began with a prayer service for the assembled, which set the tone for what was to follow. Father Willis then explained that there are many changes in regard to the 3rd edition of the General Instructions of the Roman Missal, many of which are strictly editorial. Father had arranged for members of the Liturgical Commission to speak on these changes and how those in attendance about the changes that would have impact on the priests, ministers, and laity of the diocese.

The 3rd edition of the Post Vatican II General Instructions of the Roman Missal has been affectionately given the acronym GIRM (pronounced GERM) and Father hopes that it will become infected with that "virus." He stressed that this purpose of this new edition is far more than just to add some new rules and regulations. Its goal is to give us a new mind set, a new attitude and grace as we come to the Eucharistic celebration.

The first Post Vatican II edition of the Roman Missal for our times was published in 1969 and initially manifested the principles from the council. The second edition was published in 1975 under the auspices of Pope Paul VI. This Pope had abolished a number of minor Orders and so it needed an amended edition. The third edition which was completed in the year 2000 in Latin is still waiting for final adaptation in English.

The overall purpose says Father is "to form the Church into the Mystical Body of Christ making Our Savior known to the world." With this new attitude and mindset the Church will use signs, symbols, words, gestures, offices, and ministries to achieve this goal. The power of the Holy Spirit should come forth naturally.

It has been thirty-five years since Vatican Council II and in that time, a number of bad habits that have crept into the Eucharistic celebration. This has led to a confusion of interpretations and left the laity not knowing which interpretation was correct. This new edition under the guidance of the Holy See and the Conference of Bishops has been carefully considered to ensure that this latest edition clears up many former misunderstandings.

The Church has set a standard for us. It calls us to be committed to this standard. We are to know what is in this edition and why it is in this edition. It is not just a standard for the religious but for all the faithful. The laity are to be fully active and conscious participants in the Mass. The faithful are to alternate their voices with the priests and the ministers.

As the faithful, we are to have a general conversion that emanates from our interior disposition. All who have been baptized have this responsibility to bring the right mind and heart to the Mass. And as we leave the church that interior disposition should be in evidence much like the words from the hymn, "Sent Forth By Your Blessings" -- The fruits of this Mass in all who believe shall blossom in action for all to see.

One of the other speakers we were privileged to hear was Father John Philips who is also a member of the Liturgical Commission and spoke on the new Principles of Celebration. Father began by emphasizing that the Eucharistic Sacrifice is the key to the Mass and that the sacrifice of Jesus and the Mass are one and the same. It is the sacrificial love displayed in the Liturgy that confers on the cross its value. Sacrificial love should guide what we do particularly in regard to our love for our neighbor.

The Eucharistic celebration is the prayer of the Church. It is the priest at the altar who prays the prayers of the Church. The people, however, have a right to the Rites of the Church. This involves the full, conscious, and active participation of everyone in attendance. If we fully lived out our faith, the world would be a different place. Again it was stressed that all should be expected to take the Eucharist into the world. The congregation should be motivated with faith, hope, and love.

Music is an important part of the Liturgy. We must look for ways that the assembly may participate. It is mandated in the 3rd edition of the GIRM that there be singing at Mass on Sunday, Holy Days of Obligation, and special feasts.

Each celebration is to be seen as a Communion of Ministries. All of the ministries working together make the celebration happen. Each has its role. Priest, Musicians, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Lectors and the Assembly are there to give thanks to God and to offer the Victim through the hands of the priest and to the priest. No one ministry should overtake another.

Last, but certainly not least, is the thought that some of the Eucharistic Celebration demands reverence. We need to move back to a time when an attitude of love and respect was the only stance in God's house. This should engender a sense of wonder and deep appreciation for God's action in our lives.

Let the assembly discuss the GIRM and when you find that "virus." Following Father Philips, there was a workshop on the Liturgy of the Word conducted by Jim Caspalla, a deacon at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. He, like Father Philips, stressed the fact that it is not just the priest who is doing the Mass. We are all doing the Mass. We are a communal assembly united as one body under the headship of Christ. Everyone should take an active role in the Liturgy. The mind as well as the body should be in attendance when the Mass begins.

If there is a Gathering Song, the eyes of the congregation are on the altar. A sense of reverence should be felt within the Church as the Liturgy begins and our hearts and minds are lifted up in celebration.

After each reading there needs to be a time of silence for the assembly to ponder over the words spoken. There is no need to hurry. This time of silence is vital as it allows for the Word of God to seep into the hearts of those present.

When the period of contemplation is complete the Profession of Faith is said. This is always said while the assembly stands, however it is recommended that when we sing the line "by the power of the Holy Spirit, he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man" the congregation should make a profound bow. Always everything is to be done with reverence and deep faith.

After soaking in all this information it was time for those in attendance to turn their attention to more corporal matters, namely lunch. It was quite good, prepared by the members of the Liturgical Choir. After lunch they had the pleasure of listening to Letty Valentin, the Liturgy Coordinator at St. Augustine Church in Gainesville. Her topic was the Liturgy of the Eucharist in the GIRM. Her presence for the Eucharist was evident from the moment she first began to speak to the group. Ms. Valentin repeated many times the question, "What is our point of departure?" when you think about the Eucharist. The Liturgy is the death and resurrection of Christ. We do not have to invent it. We have been given it to us. Those of us who are not ordained must think about how we measure ourselves as baptized people. We are a people who must see ourselves grafted into Christ with the dignity to be disciples of Christ. Our validity comes from our Baptism not from doing the functions of a priest. We must think about this and truly believe it.

The Eucharist is the summit prayer, it is the most perfect prayer. It is the prayer of transformation. It is the prayer for the whole church. Our lives should never be the same after we celebrate the Eucharist. It is our chance to remember our covenant with us. It is our prayer addressed to Jesus. In summation when each of us walks down that aisle to receive the Body and Blood we should know our point of departure.

Our last presenter was Dr. Bernie Sans, our Diocesan Director here at Christ the King. He immediately told us that in regard to the GIRM there were some clarifications but really nothing new. So, he had much of interest to say. Did you know that the preferred music for the Liturgy of the Mass is the Gregorian Chant but other songs that reflect the culture of the people may be used.

The Gathering Song or the Processional Song is not used to greet the president or vice-president, but to bring us together as a worshipping community. It joins us together as we leave from our homes to the parking lot and finally to the inside of the church.

The Psalm that has been designated for the service of any particular Sunday may not be changed. One thing that is relatively new is that the cantor now sings his part at the ambo. With time we will think it always was. Another new clarification for us lay people is that there is no rule that says we have to sing a hymn during the Offertory when the gifts are presented. Singing of the choir or instrumental music may be a musical gift that we offer as part of our gifts, but there is no mandate for a hymn at that time.

There are three times when an Acclamation must be sung. They are at the Holy, Holy, at the Memorial, and at the Great Amen. The singing of the Holy God begins when the Bread is broken and continues through the pouring of the Precious Blood. Timing is what counts here. Also when the priest says Communion...
that is the moment the Communion hymn begins. An adjustment is made for the choir or cantor to receive at a later time. After that there should be a period for meditation and silence. The music director may decide to lead the congregation in a communal hymn or one of Thanksgiving. Even a closing hymn is not necessary. It is the choice of the music director. There may be congregational singing or the organ may play quietly. The most important aspect is that it is done with reverence and love.

Our Bishop Victor Galeone was in attendance and heartily endorsed the changes that will soon be in effect. He expressed his appreciation for all of those in attendance.

Bishop Galeone said that how we approach the Liturgy and the reverence shown says much about us as Catholics. The outside world should be able to see Jesus in us as we go about our lives. We get this strength from the Eucharist.

Lastly, here are some items of interest that pertain to all of us and hopefully will be of value.

**The GIRM (3rd Edition)**

The Alleluia must be sung whenever there are two readings before the gospel.

The only gifts that are to be brought directly up to the altar are the gifts of bread and wine.

We will stand instead of sit when the words, “Pray my brethren that our Sacrifice may be acceptable to God,” are spoken at the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

We kneel when we begin the “Holy, holy, holy.”

We stand after the Amen has been said.

For now the Sign of Peace remains in the same place and said “only to those nearby and in a dignified manner.”

We kneel during the Consecration except when ill health, or overcrowding presents a problem.

Everything we do at Mass should be done with reverence and love. It is our way to thank God for the blessings he bestows on us daily. For without the resurrection there would be no Eucharist to celebrate. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, Our Saving Lord.

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**Funeral Choir**

by Maggie Damato

Have you ever wondered how certain ministries in our parish came about? This came to my attention a few months ago while talking with a fellow parishioner about the Funeral Choir. This person said to me, “funeral choir, whoever came up with that idea?” After pondering this question in my mind for a few days, I believe it happened like this.

Bernie Sans was sitting in his office one day thinking there was something missing in the music ministry at Christ the King. After much contemplation Bernie wondered why we have never addressed a music ministry for our funeral Masses. There it was, as easy as that. A notice was put in the parish bulletin to find people willing to serve in this type of ministry, and the Funeral Choir thus became a reality. At the present time we have 15 faithful members of this choir, all of whom are retirees.

Families, suddenly drawn together for the funeral of a loved one, take great comfort in the prayerful leadership of the choir. In fact, these dedicated singers fulfill the pastoral responsibility of the parish, providing liturgical music for funerals and encouraging the active involvement of the congregation.

Grieving families and gathered friends may be "unchurched" or otherwise unable to enter into the liturgy. Thus, by virtue of their presence alone, funeral choir members are the community of faith recreating close-knit comfort and small-town support for the bereaved family. For all those who come to honor the deceased, the choir's devoted, grace-filled ministry makes a world of difference. Their singing brings elegance to the ritual and wholeness to the liturgy, commemorating and celebrating the life of a beloved member of God's family.

Parish funerals, sometimes as many as four a month, are normally scheduled on weekday mornings. Fifteen singers are on the call list; rare Saturday morning funerals draw a few more. This is a drop-in assembly—no membership dues, no rehearsal schedule, no regular commitment—singers come when they can.

This labor of love keeps these retirees connected to each other and to the church. Singing is healthy at any age, and maintaining musical skills builds confidence for older members of the community who often feel that their abilities are not as trustworthy as they once were. These unique music ministers get as much as they give in service to God and neighbor, and thus reap satisfying personal rewards.

Our funeral choir members invite everyone to come sing. All are welcome (even not-yet senior citizens), no experience necessary. Our choir director and funeral organist, Bernie Sans, assists the bereaved families in choosing the proper hymns from our common repertoire such as, "Amazing Grace," "Be Not Afraid," "On Eagle's Wings," and many others familiar to most of us. Included in the liturgy the choir sings the Twenty-Third Psalm and the "Song of Farewell." As we sing together "May Christ, who called you, take you home..." I breathe a silent prayer of thanks.

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**ATTENTION, ATENZION, ACHTUNG, ATTENTION**

Christ the King Parish is proud to announce classes in adult education beginning this winter.

**HOW**

A committee of educators, who are members of the church, will conduct the lessons.

**WHERE**

For six consecutive Thursday evenings, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., beginning January 16, 2003.

**WHERE**

In the Parish Hall.

**Why**

This ministry is vital to the spiritual growth of everyone in this community and will now be available to those who seek truth in the Faith.

**Tuition**

Nothing to purchase. Just bring an open mind and a willingness to listen, share, and contribute.

**Theme**

Living the Beatitudes Today.

**Objective**

To achieve happiness in this world and, more importantly, to seek God's Kingdom for eternity.
Memorial Mass - One Year Later

On September 11, 2002, Christ the King family came together to pray and remember the events that occurred one year ago. The evening Mass was celebrated by Monsignor Joseph Lamonde. In his homily, Monsignor read, “Where Was God?” an article that was sent to him via the internet. He reflected on the article and showed how truly ... God is with us.

Where Was God?

First of all, God was trying to discourage anyone from taking this flight. Those four flights together held over 1,000 passengers and there were only 266 aboard. God was on four commercial flights giving terrified passengers the ability to stay calm. Not one of the family members who was called by a loved one on one of the hijacked planes said the passengers were screaming in the background.

On one of the flights God was giving strength to passengers to try to overtake the hijackers.

God was busy trying to create obstacles for employees at the World Trade Center. After all, only around 20,000 were at the towers when the first jet hit. Since the buildings hold over 50,000 workers, this was a miracle in itself.

How many of the people who were employed at the WTC told the media that they were late for work or they had traffic delays?

God was holding up two 110 story buildings so that two thirds of the buildings didn’t topple when the jets impacted.

God was in the rescue workers who were running into the buildings as most people were running out.

God was in the flight attendant who called her husband as her plane was being hijacked to tell him that she loved him.

God was in the two men who carried a wheelchair-bound woman down 70 flights of stairs to safety.

God was in the people who stood bleeding, in line to give blood.

God was in the strangers in cars, picking up strangers stranded in the city and taking them home to their families.

God is in the people who are begging to volunteer, to do anything to help.

God is in the thousands, if not millions who are flooding blood banks thousands of miles away to help people they have never met.

God is in the people who are comforting someone even when they don’t know what to say.

God is in the people who watched and cried for people who may remain anonymous in name, but never in their sacrifice.

God is in my neighborhood where I see flags waving from every home.

God is in the men and women, looking at 110 stories of rubble and seeing only the opportunity to find survivors.

God is with the heroes, most of whom will never be on the news, whose stories will only be told to their closest friends and family, but who saved someone’s mother, father, sister, brother, daughter, son, husband, wife, grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, cousin, lover, colleague, acquaintance, teacher, mentor, or friend with a single act of kindness, compassion and bravery.

God was not in the hearts of the people that caused these inhumane events. However, God was indeed there, where he was needed the most.

Author Unknown

A Gift from God

On August 15, 2002 my son Christian Lee Ethridge was born. He was born by scheduled caesarean section so we knew exactly what day and time he would be delivered. This gave my wife Debi and me plenty of time to prepare for the big event. It also gave us plenty of time to grow more and more excited. As the day got closer not only did our excitement grow, but along with it, so did our curiosity. We started thinking about questions like, “What will he look like? Will he be healthy? And will it ever be possible to love him as much as our other children?” Finally the big day came and I can honestly say that this was one of the happiest days of my life.

The experience of watching your child being born is one that is indescribable to those who have not participated in such an event. The amount of love that fills a new parent’s heart is truly a glimpse of heaven.

We got the answers to all of our questions that day. We were blessed with a healthy baby that I must boastfully admit looks exactly like his father. And yes, we do love him as much as our other children.

I knew that I loved him with all of my heart the first time that I held him. This was a time of great joy and excitement and I was truly happy. As I sat holding my precious child in my arms for the first time a thought ran through my mind. I thought to myself, “What a horrible tragedy it is that people are killing their children.” This thought filled me with an instant of sadness. I quickly dismissed this thought and mentally scolded myself for having such a disturbingly negative thought at such a positively glorious time.

After a couple of days had passed, I got a chance to stop and really think about what had brought the subject of abortion to my mind during my first encounter with my new-born son. I remembered that about two months earlier I stayed up late one night watching a television program that showed a diagram of what takes place during a partial-birth abortion. Although I already had a firm pro-life belief, I had no idea how truly horrible this procedure is. As I watched the priest explain exactly what happens, I had tears in my eyes and felt a sorrow like I had never felt before in my life.

During my contemplation, I realized it was the impact of hearing about these awful things that made me think about abortion at the moment when I was holding Christian. I also believe that the thought was not negative at all. Although sounding negative, it came about through the love I was feeling at the time. I felt this sense of sadness not only about the unborn children that will never have a chance to live a mortal life, but also for the parents who will never know what it’s like to hold that child for the first time.

I realized then that God has blessed me by giving me my child. I also realized He has blessed me even more by giving me the grace to realize that they are a wonderful gift from Him. It’s unfortunate that not every would-be parent accepts this gift of grace that leads them to understand what a wonderful gift God is giving them in their child.

Please join me in praying as often as possible that these parents who are contemplating aborting their child will be touched by the Holy Spirit and be guided into a decision of life. Please pray for the children who are being robbed of their lives and for the conversion of the parents of these children. May they come to know and love Christ, and most of all, please pray for an end to abortion in our country and throughout the world.

by Micah Ethridge
C o m e  T o  T h e  S t a b l e !

by Harriet Ellen Hughes

Adult Choir - Adult Handbells

As the Christmas season nears, lifestyles always seem to change. Folks are always in a hurry no matter what they are doing. There are gifts to be purchased, decorations to put up, and meals to be planned and served. It is never ending. Many of us have witnessed countless Christmases come and go and with each the pace seems to get even faster. Have you ever stopped and asked yourself the question “What is this all about anyway?” Have you ever visited the stable? I don’t mean passing by a nativity scene constructed at a church, on a lawn or in a store. Have you ever truly visited the stable? Just think about it. Remember the television series called “You Are There”? Well, put yourself in the stable - YOU ARE THERE!

Let’s go back in time to the days when Caesar Augustus issued a decree calling for a census. Joseph was of the house of David and as such was required to go from his home in Galilee to Bethlehem in order to register. Mary was a teenager about to give birth to her firstborn child. An angel had appeared to Mary and announced that by the power of the Holy Spirit she had been chosen to become the mother of the son of God. Mary responded simply “Be it done unto me according to your word.” To a teenager, the thought of becoming a mother had to be frightening but in a word, Mary said “yes.”

The long journey begins. Joseph and Mary set out to travel to Bethlehem. Remember, you are there - you have just got to know that the journey is not going to be an easy one. As the day darkens and temperatures grow bitterly cold, Joseph attempts to find a room for the night.

He is repeatedly told “There is no room within - no room within for a child to be born”. Growing tired, disappointed and discouraged, Joseph and Mary travel on. (How are you feeling now about the innkeepers? Do you want to punch their lights out? Are you aware that there are people living today who have “No room within”? They are not just innkeepers but are our relatives, friends and neighbors. The “room within” need not lie deep in our hearts and those fortunate enough to have such a gift need to do all that is humanly possible to share it with those among us who do not truly live the Christmas story.)

Our journey to Bethlehem continues. It is getting quite late, and Joseph makes still another attempt to find a room so that he and Mary can settle in for the night. Joseph is himself quite cold and tired and he is concerned about Mary who is becoming more and more uncomfortable. Like the others, the innkeeper has no rooms available either but does have a stable that he offers to Joseph. At least the stable will provide a semblance of shelter. It is close to midnight and brutally cold when we hear the faint cries of a baby. According to the angel who first appeared to Mary, the cries are coming from a child who shall be called Jesus. Joseph stands by and watches as Mary quickly wraps the baby because the only source of heat is the moist breath of farm animals who have been brought to the stable for the evening.

Just look at that tiny baby. He is sleeping but as you approach He opens His eyes and He meets yours. You recognize that this truly is no “ordinary” child. As the choir tells us “It was an ordinary night, in an ordinary town - unless you consider the child.” This beautiful baby boy is a King and we are on hand to celebrate His birth. This child will one day walk on water, will feed thousands with five loaves of bread and two small fish and will give His very life so that we might have eternal life.

It is not long before three men arrive at the stable. Who are these men? They say they are kings and from their dress they look like they will very well be telling the truth. They tell us that they have traveled quite a distance in search of the child born this night. They are the Magi. How did they know about this child? They say that they followed a star and sure enough, there it is shining brightly over the stable. That’s the brightest star I have ever seen, how about you? The three kings have brought gifts to the child. Did you bring a gift? What? No gift? A young boy suddenly appears at the side of the stable. He very slowly walks toward Joseph, Mary and the newborn baby. He is oblivious to the others in the stable. The young lad has with him a small drum. He tells Mary that he does not have a gift for her child (guess that makes you feel a bit better). Almost as an afterthought, the young boy asks Mary if he perhaps could play his drum for the tiny baby. Mary smiles and the little drummer plays. He has given a gift of himself. What are you prepared to do for this newborn King?

There are numerous ministries at Christ the King which would welcome your help. (Dr. Bernie Sans would be happy to talk to you about joining the choir. If you do not think you can sing, how about trying hand-bells? These are just two suggestions - you have lots of options.)

It is now time for us to go. Choirs of angels proclaiming this holy birth have been gathering over the stable since midnight and they will be our guides. As we prepare to leave the stable the child’s eyes once more look into ours. His eyes are filled with love and He stretches His small arms out as far as they will go. In a relatively short time, He will again stretch out His arms but only this time He will be a man and nailed to a cross. In both instances, He is saying “I love you! I love you! I love you!” (And He challenges us to “Love one another, as I have loved you.”)

As we prepare to leave the stable we find that it is difficult to pull ourselves away from this magnificent scene. Such love surrounds one and all. The young mother looks down at her precious child and smiles. She raises her head and smiles at us for she knows that we too are her children. Hopefully what we have witnessed here tonight will remain with us forever.

During the Christmas season, do yourself a favor - slow down and “Come to the Stable.” Celebrate the birthday of a King and keep before you the true meaning of Christmas. Never forget that Christmas is not a single day or a month or a year - it is every day of every month of every year. You have seen the real spirit of Christmas through the eyes of a tiny baby boy born at midnight in a stable in Bethlehem. YOU WERE THERE! Join with the angels as they proclaim “Glory to the New Born King!” Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

submitted by Lou Stewart

Author unknown

We ask Mary, in prayer, to intercede for us to the Lord our God.

...
I can hear someone who reads my article "Does God Communicate With Me?" (America 12/3/01) asking, perhaps with some pique: "You tell me to pay attention to my experience as the privileged place where God communicates with me, but I think I know it when God is communicating with me? Couldn't it just be wish fulfillment or even just good digestion that makes me feel treasured by God?"

Readers of America, like me, live in a culture that is immersed in psychological explanations for every experience. Indeed a culture that distrusts religious claims. How can we know whether we are experiencing God and not just ourselves or our own projections? In our age this is a burning question, but it was also a burning one at the time of Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556). In his Spiritual Exercises he develops rules, called "Rules for the Discernment of Spirits," for answering such a question. It is an exercise, he says, that is not a set of rules formulated by a man who lived over 400 years ago could still have relevance; yet many people are finding them helpful in answering the question of the above title.

Ignatius himself began to learn how to tell God's influence from other influences during his long convalescence from a battle wound in 1521. He engaged in long daydreams about doing great deeds as a knight to win the favor of a great lady – a lady so great that, it seems, he had no realistic hope of winning her – and he enjoyed the daydreams immensely. But in the absence of the romantic novels he would have preferred, he began to read the life of Christ and a book about the lives of saints. Reflecting on this reading led him to what he called an unrealistically idealized vision of a sainted life. He realized that he had been living in daydreams about doing great deeds, he felt sad and listless, while the aftereffects of these daydreams, the ones that inspired continuing joy, whereas the "bad spirit" was behind the other daydreams, the ones that left him sad and listless. But in the absence of the latter, think of a landlord who gouges his tenants and provides them away because I was functioning quite well in daily life. But I was drinking and how it was affecting my life has in store. For the rest of this article I will paraphrase the first two rules for the discernment of spirits formulated by Ignatius in the Spiritual Exercises.

The first rule of thumb is that one should look at one's ordinary orientation with regard to God and to one's life as a Christian. To do this lead a good Christian life is so far as possible? Or am I someone who cuts corners with regard to my Christian life? As an example of the latter, think of a landlord who gouges his tenants and provides them away because I was functioning quite well in daily life. But I was drinking and how it is affecting my life has in store. If this is true, then the terrible mental agony and torture scrupulous people go through is not from God. After all, scrupulous people are trying to live in tune with God. In his lifetime, Ignatius, during the early days after his conversion in 1521, was plagued by scruples, fearing that he had not confessed all his sins. Things gone wrong. The bad spirit or my own desire not to face a change will try to whisper blandishments in my ear to convince me that all is O.K.

Here is an example from my own life. For some time I had concerns about the amount of alcohol I was drinking and how it was affecting my health. I rationalized them away because I was functioning quite well in daily life. But I was often sleepy in the evening after dinner, when I wanted to pray. One day, because of the intervention of a friend, I realized that the concerns about my drinking were from God. I was given the grace to stop drinking and have been much happier for it. God's communication came in the form of niggling concerns that wanted to lead me to a happier and healthier life. On the other hand, think of a person who is trying to live in tune with God's intention, says Ignatius, God will console us, help us to move forward, encourage us in our efforts to live a good life. But the bad spirit or our own fears to closeness of God will try to make us leery of developing a closer relationship with God, as God is identified with the woman who is not mentioned. Ignatius, for example, had the thought at one point after his conversion: "How will you be able to put up with this [his asceticism, his fasts, and his prayer life] for the 70 years you have ahead of you?" Ignatius quite rightly answered that no one could guarantee that he would live for even one more day.

The second rule of thumb follows from the first. God wants us to be happy and fulfilled. But the only way we can be happy and fulfilled is to be in tune with God's desire for the world and for us. For those who are trying to lead a life in tune with God's intention, consolation is the order of the day for the most part. This does not mean that life will be without pain and suffering; it means that God will provide consoling presence to us even in the inevitable pains and sufferings life has in store.

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Below is a list of our men and women in the armed forces who are helping to preserve our freedom. Join us on the second Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. for Solemn Vespers and Benediction.

Lt. Cmdr. Seth D. Abbott, USN
Michael Aponte, USAF
M. Sgt. David Arnold, USAA
Chief AE James Arnold, USCG
Chief WO Michael Arnold, USCG
WO4 Vincent Arnold, USMA
Maj. John Augsburg, USMC
Lt. Mathew Balanky, USA
Sr. Airman Jason E. Bazin, USAF
Gregory A. Benge, USN
Cmdr. Eugene H. Black, III, USN
Matthew J. Black, USMC
Capt. Marc Blair, USA
Lt. Scott R. Chappelka, USN
Chappelka, USCG
Lt. Cmdr. Seth D. Abbott, USN
Camp. Nanette De Renzie
Rian Demery, USAF
Cmdr. Nanette De Renzie
2nd Lt. Ronald Diefenbach, USMC
Richard A. Drummond, DC
Henry Dy, USN
Rafael Dy, USAF
Jason Eskuche
E. J. Falcon, USN
Matthew Ferguson, USMC
Sgt. Keith Finkler, USA
Neal T. Francisco, USN
Paul French, USN
Major David L. Frumerie, USA
Chris Gates, USN
Chad S. Guggisberg, USCG
Col. Christopher Gunther, USMCR
Joe Guyton, USAF
Glenn Cusac, USAF
Julie Cusac, USAF
Aaron Dailey, USA
David B. Damato, USN
Gerald L. Danforth, Jr.
Sgt. Robert Daniels, USA
David Dellingler, USN
Rian Demery, USAF
Cmdr. Nanette De Renzie
2nd Lt. Ronald Diefenbach, USMC
Richard A. Drummond, DC
Henry Dy, USN
Rafael Dy, USAF
Jason Eskuche
E. J. Falcon, USN
Matthew Ferguson, USMC
Sgt. Keith Finkler, USA
Neal T. Francisco, USN
Paul French, USN
Major David L. Frumerie, USA
Chris Gates, USN
Chad S. Guggisberg, USCG
Col. Christopher Gunther, USMCR
Joe Guyton, USAF
Jared M. Hann, USAF
Airmen Sarah M. Hart, USAF
Brian Hatch, USN
Mark Henzel, USN
John Howard, USN
L. Cpl. Darrelle J. Hutchens, USMCR
Clayton Jones, USAF
Capt. Maurice Joyce, USN
1st Lt. Michael Kappelmann, USMCR
CPO Keith Kennedy, USA
Manuel Kerns, USN
Angelina Kuznia
Monsignor Joseph Lamonde
Jarred Larson, USN
Michael Leonard, USN
Danny Lopez, USAF
Senior Airman Forrest Lynch, USAF
Danny McCarthy, USAF
Dan McGovern, USAF
Nancy McKeown, USAF
W. Patrick Macke, FLNG
James Mackin, FLNG
Steve Mackin, FLNG
Josiah Maika, USN
Greg Manasco, USN
L. Cpl. Brandon Martinez, USA
Maj. Timothy R. Matthews, USA
Lt. Steven Milkey, USN
M. Sgt. Jim Myers, USN
Lt. Cmdr. Scott Newman, USN
Kevin O’Neal, USN
Maj. Mark Overberg, USN
Cmdr. John T. Parker, USN
Joel Pattillo, USAF
M/S Joe Peabody
Melvin Pelegirin, USA
Michael Pelegirin, USA
David Pelt, Jr., USA
Chris Peterson, USN
Capt. Veronica Pierce-Arnold, USAA
Mark Richards, USN
Lt. Col. Sharon E. Riley, USA
Anne Rogers, USN
Matthew Schell, USN
Kevin Schipman, USN
Capt. George J. Schmieder, MC
USN
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Schmidt USA
Sgt. Alvie Scott, Jr., USAF
Lt/C Bill Sherer
Sgt. Michael Edward Sigl, USA
Ty Simpson, USN
Jessie Stone
Scott Smith, USAF
Cmdr. Scott Speicher, USA - Missing in Action
Tommy Stuart
Charles Sullivan, USA
Lt. Cmdr. Francis T. Sullivan, USA
Brennan Sweeney
Airman Royce R. Timbang, USAF
Justin Trull, Spec.
Lt. Alan Turek, USN
Capt. Ted Venable, USN
James Vinocur, USN
Ens. Vanessa Volpe, USN
Capt. William Walsh, USN
James D. Webb, USA
Todd Welch
Kenneth M. Wilson, Jr., USMC
Greg Wrublinski USMCR

I AM YOUR FLAG

..... REMEMBER ME?

submitted by Ann Seravo

Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star-Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America.

I remember some time ago people lined up on both sides of the street to watch a parade and naturally I was always there, waving in the breeze. When your Daddy saw me coming he immediately removed his hat and placed it over his heart. REMEMBER? And you, I remember you immediately put his back on. Is it a sin to be patriotic? Have you forgotten what I stand for and where I've been? Anzio, Normandy, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Bosnia, Afghanistan, 9/11 New York.

Take a look at the memorial honor rolls some time. Look at the names of those who never came back in order to keep this Republic free... One Nation Under God.... When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So, when you see me, STAND TALL, BE PROUD, and place your right hand over your heart. I'll salute you by waving back....And,

I'll know you REMEMBERED!
"You Welcomed Me"

by Landa Paladini

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me," were words used by Father Guy Noonan as he gave his farewell homily to the people of Christ the King Parish. Father used that theme of the foreigner being welcomed to tie the message of that day's gospel to the people of our parish.

After his introductory remarks Father Guy said that one of his very first impressions was how apparent it was that Monsignor Danaher had been very partial to the color blue as its presence was everywhere in the church. "Color also," said Father, "is an identifier of the people of our parish. Haiti, the Philippines, and Blacks all coming together to celebrate the Lord's Day." Father remembered fondly that theme of the foreigner being welcomed to tie the message of that day's gospel to the people of our parish.

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In the Priesthood

Thus Spoke Noonan

Just a speck,
That's all we are.
Pebbles in the water,
Sand on the bar.
No one better than the other, you see.
(So said he in his homily)

Yet now and then
A speck hits one's eye,
Changing perspective
As life floats by,
Magnifying what life with God can be.
(So said he in his homily)

Now though the speck,
Be removed from the area,
None can forget
Its single carrier:
The subtle catalyst that opens the eye.
(So say I of “Father Guy)

by Dolores Bianco

God Bless
Father Guy Noonan
as he continues his spiritual
work in Gainesville
Characteristics of a Christian Steward ~ Simplicity

submitted by Eileen Porter

"Do not worry about your livelihood, what you are to eat or drink, or what clothing you are to wear. Is not life more than food? Is not the body more valuable than clothes? Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more important than they? Which of you by worrying can add a moment to his life span? As for clothes, why be concerned? Learn a lesson from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work; they do not spin. Yet I assure you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was arrayed like one of these. If God can clothe in such splendor the grass of the field, which blooms today and is thrown on the fire tomorrow, will He not provide much more for you, O weak in faith?" (Matthew 6: 25-30)

A scribe approached and said, "Teacher, wherever you go I will come after you." Jesus said to him, "The foxes have lairs, the birds in the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." (Matthew 8: 19-20)

"He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them: "If a man wishes to come after Me he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and follow in My steps. Whoever would preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will preserve it. What profit does a man show who gains the whole world and destroys himself in the process?" (Mark 8: 34-36)

He told them a parable in these words: "There was a rich man who had a good harvest. 'What shall I do?' he asked himself. I have no bins and build larger ones. All my grain and my goods will go there. Then I will say to myself: I have stored in reserve for years to come. Relax! Eat heartily, drink well. Enjoy yourself." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life shall be required of you. To whom will all this piled-up wealth of yours go? That is the way it works with the man who grows rich for himself instead of growing rich in the sight of God." (Luke 12: 16-21)

The Characteristic of Simplicity

Simplicity is countercultural. In today’s society, acquisition is a sign of success. More is better. Our culture encourages materialism, pleasure, indulgence, and instant gratification.

In contrast, the characteristic of simplicity detaches us from the material. Simplicity challenges us to examine what we need versus what we want. It challenges us to ask ourselves, in the words of Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy, "What do I own, and what owns me?" (23) It asks us to slow down and evaluate the work and other activities with which we fill our time by considering the following question: Which ones lead us closer to God, and which ones do not?

Indeed, by simplifying our lives we let go of objects, work, and activities to which we have become attached out of self-love. By freeing ourselves from these attachments, we become able to give ourselves more fully to God. Simplicity removes the material "noise" that distracts our attention, and quiets our souls so that we can direct our thoughts to the divine.

The Holy Father addresses the need for simplicity in his apostolic exhortation, Familiaris Consortio (On the Family). He emphasizes the parents’ responsibility in this matter, saying, "...parents must trustingly and courageously train their children in the essential values of human life. Children must grow up with a correct attitude of freedom with regard to material goods, by adopting a simple and ascetic lifestyle and being fully convinced that ‘man is more precious for what he is than for what he has.’" (Second Vatican Council, GS, 35) (24)

Contrary to society, simplicity reminds us that we are not what we possess—that the less we have to hold onto, the freer we become.

Simplicity and Stewardship

Because of the influence from our culture the path to simplicity is not an easy one. The roots of materialism are so far-reaching that Christian stewards who strive to simplify their lives make a humbling discovery: Each time they commend themselves for letting go of an attachment, they realize there is still more to which they are clinging.

Detachment, however, is a step by step process and the more we let go of those objects and activities that distract us from God, the more we grow in holiness.

In their pastoral letter on stewardship, the U.S. Bishops call for people to adopt simpler lifestyles, saying, "This is true not only of affluent persons and societies, but also of those who may not be affluent as that term is commonly understood yet do enjoy access to superficial material goods and comforts." (25)

As we let go of those things we want to possess we begin to realize the fundamental point of stewardship—that there is nothing we truly own. Everything is grace.

Perhaps more well-known than any other saint, Francis taught others how to live in simplicity. But first, he had to teach himself. As the son of a wealthy cloth merchant, Francis liked to spend money and enjoy himself. He dreamed of someday becoming a great knight. He went to war, was taken prisoner for a year, and finally returned home, only to suffer an extended illness. He again went to war, outfitted with expensive clothing and equipment. But when he came upon a poor, ragged knight, he felt ashamed and insisted they trade clothes.

Francis became ill again, and was unable to continue on with the soldiery. During this time, he had a voice ask him to serve the Master and return home. He did, and began to spend much time in prayer. He realized that to give himself to Christ he had to conquer himself first, detaching himself from all that kept him from God. One of his first tests came when he passed a leper while on horseback. Repulsed, Francis wanted to gallop quickly away. Instead he forced himself to stop, give the leper some money, and kiss him.

One day while Francis was praying he saw Christ on the crucifix ask him to repair His house. Taking the words literally, Francis began to rebuild the church of San Damiano, begging for alms to do so. His father, enraged at the change in Francis, took him home, beat him, locked him up for a time, and then disinherited him. Francis continued his work, living in poverty and often ridiculed by the people of Assisi.

In 1209, on the feast of St. Matthew, Francis’ way of life was confirmed to him when the gospel of Matthew (10: 7-19) was read. In it, Jesus instructed his apostles to go preaching the good news, to freely give, and to go without gold, or a second tunic, shoes, or a walking stick.

Francis embraced these words, living so simply that he possessed only one coat, tied with a cord around his waist. He begged for alms to continue rebuilding churches, and for food to eat. He served lepers and others who were ill. He lived in a hut built of wood and clay.

As men came to join him, a simple rule was established and submitted to Rome for approval. Francis refused any property to be held by the order, so that they could live in simplicity and poverty. He wanted even the food they ate to be simple. The brothers worked for their food with manual labor and by begging. They served the poor in whatever way they could for Francis insisted that they always give what little they had to anyone in need.

Francis devoted his life to prayer and preaching, guided always by his desire to live as simply as Jesus did. He believed that the more simply he lived, the closer he would grow to Christ.
“Learning to Love and Loving to Learn” in Pre-Kindergarten

by Barbara Boutte

We have sixty-four three, four, and five-year-olds who started our Pre-K program this year “Learning to Love, and Loving to Learn.” We are learning to love one another as Jesus taught us. We are learning to care about our new family of friends, and to share toys, ideas, and feelings with one another.

We are also loving to learn, because we learn by playing! We’ve been having great fun exploring with our five senses. For example, we made “binoculars” and went walking around Christ the King to see what we could see. We discovered a Christ the King hidden treasure, Mr. Do’s garden! We really had fun looking while Mr. Do pointed out vines, leaves, flowers, and small green pumpkins. What a great day, we made a new friend and found the pumpkin patch!

Each day is a play day in Pre-K, but our favorite day is Friday, gym day! On Fridays we see another special friend, Coach Whitson. Coach plays with us as we move to music, run with balls, wiggle with hoops, and even ride on scooters!

When you’re in Pre-K, playing is hard work; but learning with your friends is fun!

God

by Allie

Aged without a number.
Believed in but not seen.
Challenges us without a word.
Dares us to live the dream.
Entitles us to our own life.
Forgives the human mistakes.
Grants each of us His undying love.
He will never forsake.
Invisible is His appearance.
Just and upright His way.
Keeps our every secret.
Leads us through the day.
Makes our hearts anew.
Never leaves our side.
Offers us a place in heaven.
Possibly, with Him, we shall abide.
Quietly He will speak to us.
Reassuring us of His love.
Serene angels sing songs of glory.
They reside with Him above.
Unified we shall be with Him.
Vital is His word.
Welcoming are His gentle hands.
Xed out He is not, but the devil ignored.
Yielding not to Satan. But praise to God above. Zealously, tirelessly, we continue to share His love.

The Tentra

Instructions for life:

• Eat plenty of whole rice.
• Give people more than they expect and do this willingly.
• Learn by heart your favorite song.
• Don’t believe everything you hear.
• Do not sleep as much as you would like to.
• When you say, “I love you,” say it truthfully.
• When you say “I’m sorry,” say it with eye contact.
• An engagement period of six months is crucial before marriage.
• Believe in love at first sight.
• Never mock other’s dreams.
• Love deeply and passionately.
• You may get hurt, but this is the only way to live life at its fullest.
• Deal with discontentment, fight fairly, but do not offend.
• Do not judge others because of their relatives.
• Talk slow, think fast.
• When someone asks you a question you do not want to answer, smile and ask, “Why do you want to know?”
• Remember that the greatest love and the greatest success also hold many risks.
• Call your Mom.
• Bless a person who has just sneezed.
• When you lose, do not lose the lesson.
• Remember: respect for yourself; respect for others, and responsibility for your actions.
• Do not allow a small disagreement to hurt a great friendship.
• When you notice that you have made a mistake, take the appropriate steps to correct it.
• Smile when you answer the phone. Those who call can “hear” your smile.
• Marry (or be with) the person you love talking to the most. When you get old, conversation will be more important than anything else.
• Spend some time alone.
• Accept change with open arms; yet do not give up your values.
• Remember that sometimes, silence is the best answer.
• Read more books and watch television less.
• Live a good, honorable life. Later, when you grow old and remember the past, you will enjoy them once more.
• Believe and trust God, whomever/whatever you conceive God to be, but securely lock your car.
• An atmosphere of love in your home is most important. Do all that you can in order to create a calm home full of love.
• Do not bring back the past.
• Read between the lines.
• Share your knowledge. It is the way to live forever.
• Be gentle with our Earth planet.
• Pray. Prayer has incredible power.
• Never interrupt someone who flatters you.
• Take care of your problems.
• Do not trust a man or woman who does not close his eyes when you kiss him.
• Once a year, visit a place you have never seen before.
• If you make a lot of money, channel it so as to help others while you are alive. This is the greatest satisfaction a treasure can reward you.
• Remember that sometimes, not getting what you want is very lucky.
• Learn all the rules, and then break some.
• Remember that the greatest relationships are the ones in which the love between two people is greater than the need one has of the other.
• Judge your success in light of what you had to give up in order to obtain it.
• Relate to love and to the kitchen completely.
11th Annual Silent Auction
L'Arche Harbor House

by Nancy Powers

You and your friends are invited to L’Arche Harbor House's 11th Annual Silent Auction to be held on Saturday, November 16 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Christ the King Parish Hall. This evening is hosted by Mary Baer of WJXT-TV. There will be fabulous gift baskets for your bidding pleasure and numerous one-of-a-kind items that can be separately purchased. The $10.00 entrance fee covers a buffet by European Street Café. For more information, call Harbor House at 721-5992.

St. Bernadette's Circle

by Claretta Lamusga

The circle members enjoyed time working and visiting together on October 4th and 5th. On the 4th they spent the afternoon sorting and marking items which we were donating to the garage sale. We hold a garage sale each fall to raise money for our expenses and charitable causes throughout the year.

The sale was held on Saturday, the 5th at the home of Claretta Lamusga. We always enjoy getting together, whether it be to work or play.

CKCCW Fall Deanery Mass

by Claretta Lamusga

The fall deanery Mass, meeting and dinner party was hosted by the CKCCW ladies in the Parish Hall on September 26th. The hall was transformed into a beautiful fall garden. Approximately 110 women and two men were in attendance.

Our speaker for the evening, Chiqui Maldonado spoke on the plight of the “Itinerant Farm Workers.” We were asked to bring groceries which she will take to them to be distributed. The ladies opened their hearts in grand fashion.

We would like to offer a note of gratitude to Father Thanh, our Celebrant for Mass, and Father Fisher, our Homilist, and for the blessings they gave us that evening.

We also wish to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the evening a success and to those who kindly donated food and beverages to the cause.

Many compliments were heard from our guests on the delicious repast.

We are looking forward to the next Deanery meeting that will be in April at Holy Family Catholic Church.

Fall
by Alison

Fall's here.
Nature's Beauty
Red, Orange, Brown, Yellow, Green
Bare trees on every corner
Greet us.
CHRIST THE KING MINISTRIES

LITURGY

PRAAYER MINISTRIES

Daily Adoration
We need people who are willing to sign up for one hour so that someone is present in the chapel during the day. Adoration is in the Sacred Heart Chapel, Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call Chonetta Landrum, 743-9988.

Nocturnal Adoration
Held on the first Friday of each month from 7p.m.-12a.m. There are eight groups that rotate their hour each month. If you would like to join us in this prayer ministry, call Paul Goetts, 724-0940.

Prayer Network
One of our most rewarding ministries - prayer for others in need - spiritual health related. For more information call Peggy Mahaffy, 604-9417.

ORGANIZATIONS

Christ the King Council of Catholic Women (KKCW)
Our board meets monthly, September-September, to guide our eight circles that meet at various times during the month. Our General meeting is the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. We welcome new members. Call Diane McDonald, 606-0802.

Kiwid/Widows Support
For those who have lost loved ones. For information contact Isabel Fauno, 724-5180. We will send you a bulletin for the next meeting date, place, and time.

Hispanic Ministry
We wish to develop a parish ministry to worship and meet the spiritual and social needs of the growing Hispanic population at Christ the King. We meet every Monday at 7 p.m. for Bible study in The St. Mary’s Room. If interested call Rosa Ponsommier, 724-2131.

The Legion of Mary
Men and women who offer their services to their parish, to aid in performing spiritual works in the parish. Members may be active or auxiliary (praying). Weekly meetings are held every Monday at 7 p.m. in the rectory. Michael Mackin, 744-6559.

M.O.M.S. Ministry
Ministry of Mothers Sharing, is committed to converse prayer, discussion, and friendships among women of all ages. Donna Iliag, 725-3740.

Queens and Kings (age 50+)
Our lively senior citizens socialize on the second Sunday of each month from 1:30-4 p.m. September through June. Do come to enjoy! Call Jack Springle, 565-1740.

Respect Life
We are a ministry working to make a difference in people’s lives by supporting the St. Gerat Parish House, Project Rachel, Respect Life Project, and the Democratic Life Respect Life Program. Sign up at the time and Talent Fair in November, or contact Mike Munoney, 743-9227.

Christ the KingCourier
Interested in publishing a newsletter? We need more editors, layout artists, typists, proof readers, reporters, photographers, etc. We meet Wednesdays in the rectory at 7 p.m. Call 724-7099.

Sponsor Couples
Married couples needed to help engaged couples discern if marriage is for them. Call Mike Munoney, 743-9227 for further information.

STEWARDSHIP PARISH Council & FINANCES Council
Stewardship Committee
A committee appointed by the pastor, under the direction of Pat Thomas, the stewardship director, oversees the planning and execution of the annual parish stewardship campaign. Call Pat Thomas, 724-0880 regarding questions.

Finance Committee
Thirteen member committee selected by the parish council, that meets on the council should be considered a ministry with a commitment to stewardship and be in a manner that reflects Christ’s love and concern for others.

Parish Council
The Parish council is a consultative body that can pray and reflect with, and ask for guidance to make decisions concerning the ministry of the Parish and the enhancement of its mission. Meets the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the rectory. Call Mike Mackin, 744-6419. It is made up of representatives (President, Chairperson or Facilitator) of different areas of Ministry in the Parish, as well as representatives from the Finance Council, Christ the King School, Christ the King Daycare, Athletic Association, Societies, Knights of Columbus, Marriage Encounter, Sponsor Couples, and Wedding Coordinators. Elections are held every two years to elect a President, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

ST. VINCENT dePAUL PROGRAMS

Vaccination
We are a network of people who care about the problems of those around them. We would love to share the care with us. For information on how to join the St. Vincent, call 807-2233, ext 01, and leave a message.

St. Vincent de Paul
Emergency Assistance
We need volunteers to work in the St. Vincent de Paul office in the rectory, providing referrals, and assisting people who need immediate help. Hours are from 10 a.m. - noon, Monday through Friday, call 724-8406.

REDEEMING EDUCATION ADULTS

Adult Education Committee
Committee to develop and implement programs to enhance the faith formation of the parish. Program sessions are held twice a year, before Thanksgiving. Small Groups begin and are meant to enhance faith formation. Call Betty Wheeler, 724-9662.

Faith Sharing Small Groups
Small groups of people meeting in private homes to discuss the Sunday readings, Scripture and current events that effect our Catholic faith. Contact Rob Riker, 721-9988.

R.C.I.A.
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. A program designed to teach married and single adults about God, his love for them, and how they can share the same beliefs, with Christ, call Carl Ludwig, 724-8485.

Emmaus
Young adults (18-39) coming together in fellowship and to learn more about their faith. Call Robert Riker, 716-2964.

REDEEMING EDUCATION KIDS

Religious Education for Students
Opportunity for students grades 1-8 to learn/experience the Catholic faith with others in their age group. Sessions held August- May in the school cafeteria 7:45a.m. - 8:15a.m. Sunday School attendance required. Call printshop 743-3498 or send me a note by e-mail to inform you. Donna Iliag, 725-3740.

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Vacation Bible School
A week long summer program (usually in July) for children ages 4-11 years old. Meets Monday through Friday. Call Betty Wheeler, 724-9662, for information.

TEEN PROGRAM

Teen Stewardship
Teens share their Time, Talent, and Treasure with their parish and family. Contact John Finn & Jackie Carter, 645-6957.

PRE-TEEN PROGRAM

The Edge
This youth program is designed to minimize kids and girls grades 6-8 at all levels of faith from uniquely Catholic base. Call Nancy Povens, 398-1961.

LIFE TEEN PROGRAMS

LIFE TEAM
Youth ministry program with a strong focus on the Eucharist. Meet Sunday for Mass (usually at 12:15 p.m.) and LIFE Night (fellowship) afterwards. Call Nancy Povens, 398-1961, for more information on meeting times.

LIFE Support
Any adults, parents, relatives, neighbors, etc. interested in supporting the LIFE team ministry. Meetings are usually held in the church hall. Activities are creative, fun, exciting, and diverse, contact Mollie O’Neill, 997-0877.

Music for LIFE
Any adult with advance musical skills who is willing to help put together, lead and manage music and singing and these activities. Fun! Contact Bob Sedgwick, 744-5447.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL

Bible Drive
Twice a year Christ the King Church, our Christian Life and Learning Ministry, and Lifeline Team Alliance, hold a bible drive, call Karlene Simmons, 642-8131.

Respect Life Program
Helping people who want to build a culture where the unborn child is protected from conception to the natural state of death, call Ann, 398-1961.

Respect Life Pilgrimage and the Diocesan Respect Life Program. Sign up at the Time and Talent Fair in November, or contact Theresa Barry, 724-7390.

KIDS CENTER

Child Care Center
For those who have lost loved ones. For information contact Isabel Fauno, 724-5180. We will send you a bulletin for the next meeting date, place, and time.

LIFE Goes On
Over 18, have a love for teens, and are currently a parent of a teen! Call Nancy Povens, 398-1961, for more information on meeting times.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSTALLATION

by Frank Becht, PGK

Installation of the officers of Arlington Council 4727 for the year 2002-2003 was held on Saturday, August 24 at the new Council Hall located at 6030 Arlington Expressway. This was the first social function held at the new hall.

There was a social hour for guests beginning at 6:00 p.m., which was followed by installation of the new officers of the Council. Following the installation, which was conducted by District Deputy Tom Claudio, a superb dinner of grilled steak, baked potatoes, tossed salad and a delicious cake was served by brother Knights. Also attending were our Chaplain, Monsignor Danaher, Christ the King Pastor, Father Thanh and Father Carey who was visiting the parish.

The following members were installed: Grand Knight, George Coseo; Deputy Grand Knight, Mike Yarborough; Chancellor, Stephen Bell; Warden, Gregory Bell; Treasurer, Charles Strauss; Recorder, Dennis Scobie; Outside Guard, Pat Bianco; Inside Guard, Bob Knutsen and John Morrisey; Advocate, Mike Capizzi; Three year Trustee, Russ Strauss.

Sergeant Gus Carlson is being recommended for Supervisor of the Month for his actions during an armed robbery on January 25, 2002.

At 10:30 a.m., an armed suspect entered the Blockbuster Video at 1239 Arlington Road. The suspect went to the counter and displayed a handgun and demanded the money. The suspect then fled the area on foot.

Sergeant Carlson, our Zone 2 Traffic Sergeant, having heard the call, responded to the area. Using his knowledge of the area, Sergeant Carlson began an immediate canvass in the area of 1000 Bert Road. His suspicions were correct and he was able to locate the suspect fleeing on his bike. Sergeant Carlson advised H.Q. of his position and then apprehended the suspect. A search of the suspect revealed a handgun, the stolen money, and a distinctive pair of sunglasses the suspect wore during the robbery.

Sergeant Carlson has a history of awards in his past. In August of 1985 he was awarded Policeman of the Month. In 1986 he was named Policeman of the Year. And in November of 1997 Sergeant Carlson was named Supervisor of the Month.

Sergeant Carlson is an asset to the Department and constantly represents us in a positive way. Over the last couple of months, he has coordinated and participated in:

- Coordinated Hands Across the Border/Buckle Up Seat Belt Campaign
- Coordinated Buckle Up Florida Seat Belt Campaign, Vehicle Passenger Safety Day at Regency Mall, and Walk Your Child to School Safety Day
- Coordinated a Bicycle Safety Helmet giveaway in conjunction with the Sheriff’s neighborhood walk and facilitated the Patrol East Wolf Pack
- Organized “Stop Running Red Light Week” in conjunction with the Community Traffic Safety Team and D.O.T.
- Appeared on Signal 94 and gave numerous interviews to the media
- Assisted in our COPS Initiative and conducted Safety Checkpoints and wrote over four hundred citations
- Coordinated and escorted two large funerals

In Sergeant Carlson’s spare time, he serves as a JSO business partner with Arlington Elementary School and the Justina TMCA Outreach. He also serves on the Christ the King Catholic Church Parish Council and the C.K. Program school ministry.

K Cee’s Membership Tea

by Eileen Porter

The K’Cee’s held their annual membership tea and installation of officers on August 25, 2002, at the Knights of Columbus hall. Jean Sell, a past president of the organization, served as installing officer.

Officers for the 2002-2003 year are:

President: Wanda Martin
Vice President: Laura Morris
Secretary: Rose Mary Shami
Treasurer: Helen Prescott

Following the installation Grand Knight, George Coseo, spoke briefly and a short business meeting was held.

Betty Wheeler was named K’Cee’s Woman of the Year to the delight of all present. A pleasant social hour followed.
We literally gazed upon one such poignant story of reconciliation last October at Christ the King. Last fall the men presented the musical drama “From the Darkness to the Light” here at the parish. Many of the parents and families of the men were in the crowd. One young man, Nick, kept hoping that his father would come. He knew his mom was coming, but he especially longed for his father to come.

Nick had deeply wounded his whole family through his drug usage, and his dad had refused to have any contact with him whatsoever in over two years. His dad had angrily expressed that Nick had hurt the family so much that “I hate my son. I can never forgive him.”

When the show began, Nick’s mom was present, but his dad stayed outside, refusing to come in.

Dancing and telling the story of their lives before a crowd of more than 600 people, some of whom were family members who had traveled long distances to see the show, the young men gave everything—everything—they had! They were “alive” in the fullest sense of the word.

With eyes filled with the joy that comes only from genuinely struggling to live in truth and in a spirit of sacrifice, despite all their human weaknesses, the men of Our Lady of Hope danced with the intensity of the discovery of their newly found life! And the crowd loved it! On their feet and clapping many times during the show, the crowd gave them a yelling, whooping, and cheering standing ovation!

But our merciful Father wasn’t finished yet. As the curtain fell, we watched Nick’s father, rushing toward the stage from the back of the gym, where he had watched the entire show. He raced toward his son with arms outstretched and tears streaming down his face. Nick saw his dad and burst into tears. The tears flowed—and not only with emotion, and not only with the tears of the men that were “alive” in the fullest sense of the word.

The story of The Prodigal Son is the story of every man at Our Lady of Hope Community. Each of them became a slave to the pleasures of the world, which they thought would bring happiness. Like the “prodigal son” in theparable, every one of them rejected his family and the countless gifts which God the Father offered, and soon found himself at a place in life where he was, not only “rending the swine, but longing to eat the very food of the pigs.”

The merciful Father, however, was always waiting for each of them, missing His lost sons and longing to embrace them. And, finally, in the grip of evil, each of the men responded to the light of the Holy Spirit and cried out for healing. In Our Lady of Hope Community, each son who was dead is coming back to life through the tender love of our merciful Father. As the son’s life is resurrected, his relationships with his family are gently healed.

Thank you Lord
Computers
Time savers . . . ?
Stress makers . . . ?

by Mary Ann Sullivan

Computers . . . what would we do without them? Many people today rely so much on their computers they don't know how to do their work any other way. Computers are used for many different reasons; they aid us in our work and schooling, we gather information and even store pictures of our families on them.

On occasion our computers have been known to cause a problem or two. Where do we run to for help when that happens? There are friends and family members who can assist (try asking your child for help), even a technician may be called in. And don't forget about reading the instruction booklet and the many program manuals or if your computer is still able you could check online.

Did you know there is someone else to go to for help? We ask the saints to intercede for us in so many parts of our life, why not the computer. So when you are having a bad day at your computer, ask the patron saint of computers for help. If he can't help, go right to God, our Ultimate Technician.

Oh, in case you are wondering where I found this information . . . where else? Why, on my computer while “surfing the internet” of course!

The Life of Isidore

Born c.560 at Cartagena, Spain
Died 4 April 636 at Seville, Spain
Patronage computer technicians, computer users, computers, the Internet, schoolchildren, students
Also known as Isidore the Bishop; Schoolmaster of the Middle Ages
Memorial 4 April

taken from www.catholic.org/saints

Isidore was literally born into a family of saints in sixth century Spain. Two of his brothers, Leander and Fulgentius, and one of his sisters, Florentina, are revered as saints in Spain. It was also a family of leaders and strong minds with Leander and Fulgentius serving as bishops and Florentina as abbess.

This didn't make life easier for Isidore. To the contrary, Leander may have been holy in many ways, but his treatment of his little brother shocked many even at the time. Leander, who was much older than Isidore, took over Isidore's education and his pedagogical theory involved force and punishment. We know from Isidore's later accomplishments that he was intelligent and hard-working so it is hard to understand why Leander thought abuse would work instead of patience.

One day, the young boy couldn't take any more. Frustrated by his inability to learn as fast as his brother wanted and hurt by his brother's treatment, Isidore ran away. But though he could escape his brother's hand and words, he couldn't escape his own feeling of failure and rejection. When he finally let the outside world catch his attention, he noticed water dripping on the rock near where he sat. The drops of water that fell repeatedly carried no force and seemed to have no effect on the solid stone. And yet he saw that over time, the water drops had worn holes in the rock.

Isidore realized that if he kept working at his studies, his seemingly small efforts would eventually pay off in great learning. He also may have hoped that his efforts would also wear down the rock of his brother's heart. When he returned home, however, his brother in exasperation confined him to a cell (probably in a monastery) to complete his studies, not believing that he wouldn't run away again.

Either there must have been a loving side to this relationship or Isidore was remarkably forgiving even for a saint, because later he would work side by side with his brother and after Leander's death, Isidore would complete many of the projects he began including a missal and breviary.

In a time where it's fashionable to blame the past for our present and future problems, Isidore was able to separate the abusive way he was taught from the joy of learning. He didn't run from learning after he left his brother but embraced education and made it his life's work. Isidore rose above his past to become known as the greatest teacher in Spain.

His love of learning made him promote the establishment of a seminary in every diocese of Spain. He didn't limit his own studies and didn't want others to as well. In a unique move, he made sure that all branches of knowledge including the arts and medicine were taught in the seminaries.

His encyclopedia of knowledge, the Etymologies, was a popular textbook for nine centuries. He also wrote books on grammar, astronomy, geography, history, and biography as well as theology. When the Arabs brought study of Aristotle back to Europe, this was nothing new to Spain because Isidore's open mind had already reintroduced the philosopher to students there.

As bishop of Seville for 37 years, succeeding Leander, he set a model for representative government in Europe. Under his direction, and perhaps remembering the tyrannies of his brother, he rejected autocratic decision-making and organized synods to discuss government of the Spanish Church.

Still trying to wear away rock with water, he helped convert the barbarian Visigoths from Arianism to Christianity. He lived until almost 80. As he was dying his house was filled with crowds of poor to whom he was giving aid and alms. One of his last acts was to give all his possessions to the poor.

When he died in 636, this Doctor of the Church had done more than his brother had ever hoped; the light of his learning caught fire in Spanish minds and held back the Dark Ages of barbarism from Spain. But even greater than his outstanding mind must have been the genius of his heart that allowed him to see beyond rejection and discouragement to joy and possibility.
Students thoughts on Father Thanh’s discussion of Eucharist, Memorial and Service

I love going to Mass because I have realized over the past year I need to pray more. Going to get the Eucharist is an awesome feeling. Then I go back to my seat after Eucharist and block all the talking and singing and concentrate on God only. That’s what I think about Mass.

Carly

When I receive the Eucharist I feel like Jesus is stronger in me.

Justin

We have been taught that the Liturgy of the Mass helps us to look at the Eucharist as both a memorial and a sacrifice. To me, memorial means something as a monument to keep remembrance alive. And sacrifice means the offering of something precious to a deity or the thing offered. When I attend Mass I feel welcome into the church and very special to be in the church as a person.

Taylor

To me Mass is wonderful! I love going. It really gives me a wonderful feeling deep inside my heart. Sacrifice is so hard to do sometimes. I always ask myself though, if Jesus was right before me, would I give my new present to Him? Would I be able to sacrifice my items if He asked for them? Every time my answer is yes.

Ashley

I love your Masses and speeches. The Eucharist is a part of the Mass where I feel holy and I know that God is in me. No one likes to sacrifice, but sometimes they have to. I hope you do our next Mass.

Amy

We have been taught that Eucharist is an important part of our life. I think it is the best part of our life. It helps us to see ourselves and Jesus for who we really are. It helps us to see how important Mass, our life and the world really are because it gives us a purpose to live. Thank you for giving it to us, Father Thanh.

Ashton

I like to listen to the first and second readings and Gospel, because they are usually interesting. I like to listen to the homily unless they are too long ... I think Mass is fun to listen to.

Zach

When do people leave after the Eucharist?

Caleb

When the tabernacle is open ... we remain kneeling ... when the tabernacle is closed, we may be seated.

Devin

The Eucharist is a really special thing for our soul.

Zachary

Why is the Eucharist a memorial of Jesus?

Emily

Why does the priest say, “Do this in memory of Me”?

Kara

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Ashton

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Zach

Jesus gave up His life for me.

Darby

Jesus is our Savior because He died on the cross.

Nicholas

The Eucharist is Jesus body and blood.

Tori

Jesus is our Savior, who loves us more than anything.

Peter
National Junior Honor Society at Christ the King

Victoria

Knowledge: Knowledge is very necessary to have to get far in life. You need knowledge, but you need to not brag about it to others. Knowledge is good to have if you have brothers and sisters. When my sister needs help with homework I can help her. When my brothers get older I can teach them the stuff they need to know. In NJHS I can help tutor and share my knowledge with the kids who need help.

Scholarship: If you want to have scholarship, you need to be open to a variety of concepts. You need to push yourself to get what you want. If you want an A on a test, study. If you want to be great, do great things. I wanted to be on the basketball, volleyball and softball teams, so I practiced and I made it. I wanted AB honor roll, so I studied.

Service: Service means helping others and helping your community. You need to be humble and do without asking for reward. I am involved in Girl Scouts so I do service about once every other month. I have participated in the St. John’s River Clean Up for about three years. I donate my clothes to the Salvation Army, and I donate games to people in need who have less than I have.

Leadership: You also need leadership to get far in life. It could be anything from being captain of your sport’s team to being a bigger brother or sister. I am a bigger sister to a younger sister and two younger brothers. I need to set examples for them and lead them to good things and God.

Character: Character is your individuality from others. You need to be different. Don’t follow others just to be the same. Dare to be different. You need to be fair to others and be caring. Be respectful to adults. I know some kids and teens don’t use manners much anymore. They say “yeah” and not “yes ma’am” or “no sir”. I’m glad my parents taught me to say those things because I think adults appreciate it when kids and teens use manners. It shows respect.

Sarah

Knowledge: Knowledge is God’s gift to us to share with others. It’s how we use it, like tutoring other kids who need help. Knowledge helps you make important decisions and choices in your life.

Service: Service is the way you help others in doing helpful duties. Service is a way of pleasing others. Through service I have cleaned up Woodland Acres and I have participated in the First Coast Nutcracker. I have also helped the runners at Race for the Cure.

Leadership: Leadership is helping others accomplish the same goal that you have reached. I show leadership by being an active cheerleader for the Ravens Cheerleading Squad.

Scholarship: Scholarship is a commitment to learning. Scholarship means that you want to learn. I show scholarship by participating in class and doing the best I can in school.

Character: Character is how you show your individuality and how you express yourself. I show my character by being myself and not being someone else. I have also shown my character by being true to my friends.

Christopher

Service: Service is a selfless activity that helps strengthen and make better the community and its people. On weekdays that I am off from school I help out at the soup kitchen for two hours. One Sunday a month I spend an hour and a half assisting at a prayer service at the nursing home.

Scholarship: Scholarship is a commitment to learning. Every learning opportunity that comes by me, I take it. Anything that can improve my knowledge will help me in my service to other people.

Knowledge: Knowledge is the understanding gained through study, experience, and good judgement. If someone is confused, I try to use my knowledge to give them a better understanding.

Leadership: Leadership is the quality of a person to train and help others to reach the same goal. The only lead position I ever had was Captain in Safety Patrol for a month.

Character: Character is the quality that gives a person individuality. I try to be honest to my friends and family. I obey my parents’ commands, but sometimes I grumble. I try to be everyone’s friend and help them by being there for them.

Taylor

Service: Service is one of the many gifts from God that grants us grace. When serving, whether it be at the Soup Kitchen or altar serving, service makes your soul refreshed. The main purpose of service is to receive this grace and nothing else – no money, no reward. No gift is as precious as grace. After roughly 200 hours I can only say that service is one of the greatest feelings God offers.

Knowledge: God grants all of us countless blessings. To some it’s wisdom, others it’s knowledge. To those who are given by God the talent of knowledge this gift is not to be taken lightly or ridiculed and forgotten. Some people who are blessed with knowledge never use it to their advantage. Those who have the gift and use it to the best of their ability already know the unbelievably good feeling of unlocking the door to the world with the key of knowledge. They keep the key with them at all times for future doors ahead.

Leadership: Leadership: In the dance of life some lead, some follow. For those who lead they already know the responsibility of leadership. Sometimes leadership involves sacrificing your own wants to lead someone from math to theology. Leadership requires continuous sacrifice and wisdom. Leadership literally leads people in the sometimes funny, sad, happy, and angry dance of life.

Character: Character describes a person as a friend, sibling, son, daughter, mother, or father. Someone with good character has already received more gifts from God than some people receive in a lifetime. A man with good character usually has several friends and has a strong connection with land, and that is the greatest gift of all.

Scholarship: Scholarship is good grades intertwine knowledge and scholarship. Scholarship describes someone’s grades, and along with effort good grades can be reached. Mainly scholarship deals with a lot of knowledge, some leadership, and effort.
Students thoughts on Father Thanh’s discussion of Eucharist, Memorial and Service

When I receive the Eucharist, I give thanks for all my family and other blessings.

Dani

The Eucharist helps me to remember that it is important to serve the Lord by participating in the Mass.

Therese

We receive communion to remember what Jesus did for us.

Michaela

Every time I receive the Eucharist, I feel special ... because I receive the Body of Christ.

Kailey

I feel I am receiving Jesus Christ in my heart. He cleans my soul and gives me peace.

I want to follow in God's footsteps.

Jason

The Eucharist is important to me because God will be inside me telling me the right thing to do. I just love going up to the altar to receive the King, Our Savior.

Clay

The Eucharist is important to me because it makes me feel special.

Jason

I receive the grace of God.

Brendan

The Eucharist is important to me, because I love God and He is in the Eucharist. I would like to welcome him into my heart.

Joseph

It makes me a better Catholic when I take the Eucharist and it makes my family better Catholics also. When I take the Eucharist it empties out the bad things in my heart and I feel great inside.

Kendall

The Eucharist reminds me of what Jesus did for us ... that He sacrificed His life so we could live forever.

Veronica

The Eucharist is the best thing in the world.

Jill

The Eucharist is a celebration of love and faith. It reminds us how Jesus died for us. The Eucharist can help show us how to love and help one another.

Hillary

The liturgy of the Mass helps us to look at the Eucharist as a memorial and a sacrifice. To me memorial means remembering a specific person or something that happens. Sacrifice means giving up something for someone else. When I attend Mass I am ready to pray and honor God.

Caitlin

To me a memorial is a remembrance. The Eucharist is a remembrance of Christ and his Last Supper. A sacrifice is a giving up of something. The Eucharist is Jesus' body. He gave His body up to God to save us from sin. When I go to Mass, I feel that I am not going to have a good time. When I come out, I feel good and relaxed.

Christopher

Eucharist is important to me because I just think it is a great honor to go to Mass and receive communion as the Body of Christ because I know that Jesus is inside my soul and my heart.

Colleen

I'm glad I get to go to a Catholic school where I get to study our religion and receive the Eucharist.

William

Jesus is so powerful and aware.

Daniel

The Eucharist makes me feel all good inside when I receive it.

Kristy

I pray to God to give me the inner strength to believe and live according to God's word.

Lauren

When I get to church and pray with my Mom or Dad it makes me happy to know that I am celebrating the Eucharist with family.

Andrea

When I receive the Eucharist I feel happy because Jesus is coming into my body and it makes me want to do something good for God.

Brandon

Eucharist as a sacrifice not only means the sacrifices we make, but the sacrifices that Jesus made for us.

Victoria

To me the Eucharist is the visible form of Christ. It is His death and resurrection. It is His sacrifice and love for us that has and will save us from hell's torturous fires. It was Christ who opened the doors into heaven. This is how the Eucharist is a sacrifice and memorial. The Eucharist is a service because we are serving God and Jesus when we do good and receive grace.

R.J.
by Mickey Kenny

Isn’t that a wonderful question? First of all, it makes me feel lucky – fortunate to be a part of the “us”. Secondly, it makes me wonder who is asking the question and what they want to learn from the answer. But most of all, what is the reason behind the question?

At the beginning of the Christ the King School year Father Thanh went to talk to the children in an assembly in which he welcomed them back for the year. He began by telling them how pleased he was to be a part of their last school year, pointing out highlights such as Grandparents’ Day, Confirmation, Confirmation, and all the other school events. Think how good they must have felt to hear Father Thanh say, “You have enriched my life with your youth, your energy, and your openness and I am looking forward to another wonderful year with you.”

He went on to share with them that he had a “specific vision for the school based on the main theme of Catholic Education, ‘What makes us Catholic?’”

It is Father Thanh’s plan to introduce a new area of emphasis each month for the students to think about and learn about and use as part of their lives because they are Catholic. After he introduces the subject for the month, the teachers will expound on this in their subject areas encouraging thought through art, writing, religion, etc. The students’ work on these subject areas will be presented on February 24 and March 31, followed by First Communion on April 28, and completing the program on May 19 with a talk on the Creed.

Through the first two talks, and those that will follow throughout the year, our students at Christ the King School will have an enhanced view of what it means to be Catholic. This is the primary subject in a Catholic education. How fortunate these students are to have this addressed in this manner. From time to time the pages of the Courier will give everyone the opportunity to share in the students’ work on these subject areas as expressed in art and writing. It will be beneficial for all — and fun to see, so keep reading!

Look throughout this issue of the Courier as the students share their response to Father Thanh’s talks.
**Living on the Edge**

by Elsie Maassen

Do you need an extra kick of adrenaline in your evening? How about being simultaneously glued to your seat and jumping out of your pants? The Christ the King boys’ basketball team is providing excitement and entertainment on a weekly basis. With a strong team, consisting largely of eighth graders, the boys have been pulling out last minute wins almost every game. The enthusiasm of the team is encapsulated in the words of #44 Jacob Plotz, “This season is exceptional. Coach is bringing us along in our mental and physical game, and we are going to go all the way. Ravens Rule!”

The team this year is led by Coach Hayes and assistant Coach Mills. The team follows a grueling practice schedule every day of scrumming, running, drilling, and shooting practice. In addition, the boys are still managing to keep up with their demanding academic schedules.

Two players, Kyle and Daniel, enjoy the unique experience of having their fathers as coaches. The boys commented that, ‘If we mess up, they are calm and collected and say, ‘Get back on the defensive, boys.’ That is why we like having our dads as coaches.’

This years players are: Kyle Hayes, Joey Robison, Chris Glotzer, Curt Ludwig, Daniel Mills, Mark Bahri, Jacob Plotz, George Farah, Aaron Plotz, Dustin Layland, Andrew Young, Connor Marsh, Augustin D’Orazio, and Philip Morency.

The boys’ games are characterized by fast-moving action, dramatic shots at the hoop, and breath taking attempts at three-pointers. For the most part, it seems like our boys’ team likes to play under pressure. They drive hard in the first half of the game to take the lead, and then fight to hold that lead during the second half.

This performance is what takes us to the cliffhanger games. The offense is strong this year providing a good scoring rate and fewer turn-overs. All this stress to perform can cause anxiety. Joey Robison #3 recounts, “The games are a rush. All that goes through your head is I hope I don't mess up.”

If you are looking for some excitement in your evening, and you are a basketball fan, stop by the Kingdome for a Ravens’ home game and support our team.

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**Planning for the holidays . . .**

Don't forget to add St. Vincent dePaul Society to your list.

By filling and delivering baskets of food for families in need within our parish borders, the holidays are joyful for both the giver and those who receive.

Be part of it all by your gifts of time, talent, and treasure!

Our baskets are chock full of turkey, dressing and gravy mixes, rice, potatoes, ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, oranges, pumpkin pie, whipped cream, rolls, and all the love a happy heart can hold!

We thank you for your generosity. We pray that God blesses you and all you love this holiday season!

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**Christ the King School Library**

by Mrs. Aguilar

The library is one busy place! Every class meets there once a week as the students learn how to use the library as a reference point for research and essays. There are seven computers available to access the internet and other multimedia tools.

Through generous donations from parents and parishioners the Accelerated Reader Program has been able to acquire a wide variety of books. This program is designed for the students to encourage a love of reading and for teachers to better understand the reading skills of the students.

* * *

List items include:
- Accelerated Reader books – all levels
- Magic School Bus videos
- reference books encyclopedias, dictionaries, etc.
- non-fiction books (countries, animals, sports, biographies)
- software programs for the library
- audio books for the library
- be used to purchase video tapes and software programs for the computer.

The library has a wish list which would love to hear from you!

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**Morning Star School**

by Mary Weems

Morning Star's fall fund raiser was a great success! We thank everyone for their hard work and support. The money we raised will be used to purchase video tapes and audio books for the library and software programs for the computer.

Our Primary students will have a World Food Day on October 16. Each student will be asked to bring a food dish from another country. The classes will discuss the countries, their customs and histories, and the students will share their dishes for lunch.

Coach Bryan has been working with the students on "cup stacking" in the physical education classes.

The students practice stacking and unstacking 12 specially designed plastic cups (Speed Stacks) in predetermined sequences and compete for time. This helps promote bilateral proficiency or equal performance on both sides of the body, which develops important athletic and academic skills.

Mr. Howard's science classes in the Junior High are preparing to compete in an egg mover competition. The students must move an egg 15 feet without breaking it. They must stay in front of the starting line or behind the finish line during the competition. The egg must be visible at all times, and remote control devices are prohibited.

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New Teachers

by Pattie Sloan

Christ the King School is pleased to introduce five new faculty members. Three of the five were new to us last school year, two came to us just this year. All are remarkable individuals, each bringing his/her own unique gift to us and to our children. The following is a quick glimpse into the life of each teacher.

Mr. Dennis Stoddard:

Dennis is the Physical Education teacher for grades 3-8. He began his tenure with us in the 2001-02 school year. Dennis is prior law enforcement, and committed to the physical fitness training of each student.

Family: Wife Linda; two children, three grandchildren (two attend CTK and one at BK).

Hometown: Jacksonville

College Alma Mater: Southern Illinois University, College of Education.

Fondest childhood memory: five cent candy bars.

Hobbies: Collecting various memorabilia.

Favorite literary work: Charles Dickens, British writer (1812-1870), Tales of Victorian Life

Favorite sport: Baseball

Music you enjoy listening to: Easy listening... 70's, 80's, & 90's

Who are your heroes: Honest, hard-working men and women who make this country great.

What would you be doing if you weren't teaching? Probably be retired and traveling.

If you could go back in time, what era would you choose and why? I would like to live in the 50's. Life was simple and inexpensive. People actually had social and family values.

With the exception of your family, what achievement are you proudest of? I am proud that I serve on the Board of Directors of an international fraternal organization which oversees assets of over $4 billion.

What goals have you yet to accomplish? To be the best physical education teacher I can be. I have so much more to learn.

What characteristics do you believe help make a successful student? Honesty, integrity, and self-discipline.

What is your favorite food and why? Meatloaf, need I say more?


Favorite color: Blue

Nickname: D.J.

Thus far what is your favorite Christ the King School memory? Having so much fun with so many great kids at Christ the King.

Eileen came to us last year as our new fourth grade teacher. Constant motion is a character trait of Eileen's, she is very much on the go, as her athleticism is very apparent.

Family: I am the middle child of the children, two brothers and two sisters, all Irish. I am the mother of Elise, 16 and Sean, 13.

Hometown: West Hartford, CT

College Alma Mater: College of New Rochelle (undergraduate), Dowling College (masters).

Fondest childhood memory: Playing football with my brother and the whole neighborhood.

Hobbies: I love watching my children playing sports.

Mrs. Eileen Quinn Brown

Ms. Stephanie Chinault

Stephanie is the middle school Social Studies teacher. Stephanie is in her second year of teaching at Christ the King School. She has the ability to light up the room when she enters it, and is gifted with an infectious laugh. When Stephanie laughs, we all laugh with her.

Hometown: Jacksonville

College Alma Mater: Emory University

Fondest childhood memory: Making a hook shot in a CK basketball game.

Hobbies: Tennis

Favorite literary work: Virtually all of them.

Do You, Do You, Do You?

by Cynthia

Do you want to know? Do you want to see?
What’s going on in your community?

Look for the Courier, that’s the place
To see it all. Just look with grace.

Forty-four pages of ministry,
People helping people, that’s the key.

If you take pictures, or you can type,
Find misspelled words, or stories you write.

Your skills are needed, be a point of light
And join our team on Wednesday night.

Favorite sport: Tennis

What type of music do you listen to? Irish, Blues, Contemporary

What would you be doing if you weren't teaching? Playing tennis

With the exception of your family, what achievement are you proudest of? My children are my greatest achievement, after that, my Masters Degree.

What goals gave you yet to accomplish? Teacher of the Year, #1 tennis player

What characteristics do you believe help make a successful student? Conscientious, industrious

What is your favorite food? Ice cream

What food do you detest? Overcooked vegetables

Best vacation destinations: Colorado for skiing, and the Keys for scuba diving

Favorite color?: Green

What was your nickname in School? My softball teammates called me "Quinnar".

Thus far, what is your favorite Christ the King School memory?
My favorite part of every week is Friday Mass.

Favorite sport: Tennis to play, football to watch.

What type of music do you listen to? Rock and Roll

Who is your hero? My mother.

What would you be doing if you weren't teaching? Making a bunch of money as a realtor.

If you could go back in time, what era would you choose and why? The Renaissance. Because larger women were fashionable.

With the exception of your family, what achievement are you proudest of? Writing a children's book.

What characteristics do you believe help make a successful student? Curiosity

What is your favorite food? Pasta, because it's comforting.

What food do you detest? Raw fish. Why do people eat that?

Best vacation destination: Europe

Favorite color? Green

Thus far, what is your favorite Christ the King School memory? First day of the first year of teaching...scary!

Continue on next page
Favorite literary work: *Les Misérables* or the collection of writings from which *Wotan's* was derived.

Favorite sport: Basketball or swimming

What type of music do you listen to? Contemporary Christian, Broadway, Classical, 80's are my favorites, but I enjoy any music whose language doesn't offend me!

Who is/are your heroes? I recently found a new hero - St Therese of the Little Flower. She makes those of us who don't strive to be in the limelight and don't take being called "simple" as an insult, feel that we are following God's will in a very special way.

If you could go back in time, what era would you choose and why? 1950's. Call me corny, but I just love those "Leave It to Beaver" households and ideals.

What characteristics do you believe make a successful student? A willingness to communicate; whether it be offering input to a class discussion or openly and politely disagreeing with a teacher.

What is your favorite food? Pizza or stir fry

What food do you detest? Frozen orange squash

Favorite color? Pink

What was your nickname in school? I was too straight to ever need a nickname.

Thus far, what is your favorite Christ the King School memory? Spending September 11th Mass with a whole new church family. It was a powerful experience to hear the children's voices and to see their artwork.

What made your hometown special? I moved quite a bit as a child (my father worked for a large corporation, Kraft Foods), I don't really consider any place my hometown. My fondest memories, however, are from the second through ninth grade, that we lived in Huntington, NY, on the Long Island Sound. This was the longest period of time I spent in any one place, and since we lived three blocks from the seashore, for the sense of peace and serenity it evokes. My summer days were filled with fishing, clamming and swimming; my winters with sleigh rides, tobogganing and skating, and countless afternoons curled up with a good book. I could not venture to guess how many books I had read as a child, much less over the course of my lifetime. I always enjoyed school, but was often disciplined for having a library book hidden under my desk! That passion for the printed word has never left me. I think there are fewer greater gifts a parent can give a child than a love for reading.

What type of music do you listen to? Jennifer Kapp, 10,000 Maniacs, Jack Johnson, Nickel Creek, Jim Buckman

Thus far, what is your favorite Christ the King School memory? I have enjoyed every moment thus far that I have spent here at Christ the King. The staff has been quite welcoming, and I cannot say enough about the children. I now feel like the proud parent of 29 rather than 3! I hope to challenge and inspire my class through a focus on critical thinking skills and an increase in problem solving ability. I want them to laugh a lot and to learn a lot--we should all look forward to coming to school each day! Being here is, for me, the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. After staying home for twenty years to raise my children, I now set out to open a new chapter in my life. My life has been filled with countless blessings and this is yet another. I am so grateful to God for steering me in this direction.
Students thoughts on Father Thanh’s discussion of Eucharist, Memorial and Service

The Eucharist taught me about love, hope and faith in ways I can’t explain. I’ve learned so much from the Eucharist, like how to love.

The Eucharist is not just a piece of bread, but it’s the body of Jesus Christ. The one who saved us from sin by sacrificing His life on the cross.

Katlin

The Eucharist makes me feel closer to God. I also feel closer to my parents, teachers and family. I love to pray. It makes me sorry for the people who died (9/11/01). I can pray for them. I can also pray to God and the Holy Trinity. The Eucharist makes me feel closer to the Holy Spirit, Mary, Jesus and God the Father. I pray for forgiveness, hope and help that the poor will find a home. Also that the sad will find happiness and joy.

Madeline

The Eucharist is very special to me. It helps me through tough times, like the tragedy of September 11. It has helped me grow stronger, and more close to God. The Eucharist makes me feel and be a holier person.

The Eucharist is the body and blood of Christ. The Eucharist is a very special gift from God. God has done many things for us, like send His son to save us from sin and death. We should worship and praise God. The Eucharist has helped me through a lot.

Anastasia

The Eucharist makes a lot to me in different ways. It makes me feel better when it is inside me. I feel like God is with me for the rest of the week. It is special because it is Jesus body and blood. I do better things when Jesus is with me. I makes me a better person.

Josep

I learned that memorial means memory and to remember.

Pamler

The Eucharist is very special to me. It assures me that God and Jesus are real. Whenever I receive the Eucharist I feel a wave of loving warmth go through my body. I love the Eucharist and It loves me. The Eucharist is the living Jesus. I remember to fast one hour before going to communion. The Eucharist is very sacred in the monstrance. That is why we kneel when we see it. Before it is consecrated, it is just bread. Once it is consecrated, it is the Blessed Sacrament.

Alex

The Eucharist means love to me. God gives His love to us, so I am giving love back.

Victoria

The Eucharist is very important to me. That’s when I meet with Jesus. I receive Jesus twice a week. I like it when I receive communion, it makes me feel good. The Eucharist makes me happy all day. It makes it harder to get mad at my sister or brother. It makes it easier to do my work. I love when I receive the Eucharist.

Steven

The Eucharist means the whole world to me. It unites me with Jesus. When I take the Eucharist it gives me a good feeling. It is good to know that Jesus is actually with us. It helps me become a better person.

Dena
Students thoughts on Father Thanh’s discussion of Eucharist, Memorial and Service

Service is when you put other people in front of you.
Bradley

Memorial means a special thing to keep in your mind. Service means ... not to be selfish.
Nicky

Jesus was selfless, He gave up His body for us.
Caitlyn

Service is when we help each other. It is a sign of love.
Mauriah

I’m glad I get to go to a Catholic school where I get to study our religion and receive the Eucharist.
William

Jesus is so powerful and aware.
Daniel

The Eucharist is my memorial because I recall all the good things in my life. It makes me feel good. It feels like receiving a boost of grace. Thank you for blessing communion. Thank you for holding communion services.
Kaylyn

After I take the Eucharist I get more into the Mass. I also remember that God does some wonderful things, one of those things is taking my sister Katherine in His arms.
Matthew

Jesus is so great to us. I have troubles and stress, but when I receive the Eucharist they all go away ... This is why I became an altar server. I always enjoy Mass!
Hannah

... Every time I take the Eucharist I always feel better about the day and that it is going to be a good day. And the day usually does go good.
Maxwell

When I receive communion, I feel peace, not just in me but in the whole church.
Rebecca

The Eucharist is a memorial that celebrates the last 24 hours of Jesus’ human life on Earth.
Trevor

He died for us on the cross. He did not have to sacrifice His life but He did it out of kindness.
Connor

When I think of Mass, I think of the Eucharist as a memorial sacrifice. Every time I look at the Eucharist, I look way beyond the bread. I see Jesus’ body and a cross. I scan through my memories and remind myself God gave up everything for me. I love Him more than anything because of what He did. I’ll never for get His love while I’m on Earth.
Theresa

Service and remembering are very important. Did you see me and how I was listening with my heart?
Nicole

Jesus loved us so He died on the cross for our salvation.
Victoria

We should work together
Wesley

Help others like Jesus did ... that’s called service. Jesus had to wipe someone’s feet and that was nice.
D.J.

I liked your speech, it was good, even the part about service (to others).
Brandon

Service means picking up something that somebody dropped.
Ryan

I love you Jesus, very very very much.
Aleeza

Service means helping.
Maillorie

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Emmaus Young Adult Group
Welcome at Christ the King

by Robert Riker

Christ the King Parish has lovingly opened its doors to the Emmaus Young Adult Group by providing the group with a more permanent home. The group has been given regular use of the St. Mary's Room next to the Kingdome Gymnasium and looks forward to becoming an integral part of this vibrant community.

Emmaus, as it has come to be known, is a weekly gathering of young adults from all over the diocese, who seek to grow in knowledge of the Catholic faith, while also developing a more personal relationship with Jesus. The group holds weekly meetings every Thursday from 7:30 – 9:00 pm, with a Rosary being said prior to 7:30 for all the groups' special intentions. On any given Thursday, one might find anything from a keynote speaker to a crazy, make-the-rules-up-as-you-go version of the game Jeopardy.

Emmaus began about five years ago after five young adults from the Catholic community recognized a need for something more. At that time, meetings were held in a house of one of the original five. With much prayer, hard work and dedication, the group has grown in numbers and initially became a part of St Catherine's Parish in Orange Park. After a few years, the group changed location to Holy Family in Baymeadows, as many were coming from Jacksonville. Holy Family's plans to include more of its own Parish-based ministries left

Religious Education: A New Year

by Lucille Guzzzone

The religious education school officially opened on August 21, with an orientation program in the Parish Hall. Priests, families and staff gathered together to review the new procedures for the coming year. One change was the method of registration. Parents registered their children in their teacher's classroom after the assembly was completed. This allowed each teacher to have an immediate list of children and a chance to meet her/his students and their families right away.

One of the goals of this year's program is to emphasize to parents that every year of instruction is vital. Usually, grades 3-6 fall off in attendance because these are the years when sacramental preparation meetings, celebration of the Mass, and informative newsletters. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their children's teachers throughout the year.

Emmaus searching for a new place to meet.

Unbeknownst to Emmaus, God's providence provided when Nancy Powers spoke up on the group's behalf to Father Thanh. The group had an invitation to come and be a part of Christ the King community!

Today, the Emmaus Group has about 75 regular participants ranging anywhere from college age to late 30's. While many of the participants are single, the group is not a singles group. Rather it prides itself on seeking to take young adults on a closer, more personal faith walk with Jesus, by hitting consistent, pertinent Catholic topics on a weekly basis. In fact, the group has had two of its participants join a Religious Order and has several others actively discerning a Religious Vocation. Many of the Emmaus participants serve in the planning and facilitation of the annual diocesan supported young adult retreat, not to mention other ministries within the different Parishes.

Perhaps one of the greatest aspects of the Emmaus Group is its sense of community. The group is a close-knit community, forming strong and lasting friendships, bonded and solidly rooted in Christ among its participants. Emmaus looks forward to actively participating and helping serve the Christ the King family. If you would like more information on the Emmaus Group, you may contact Robert Riker at 904-261-2041 or via e-mail at rriker276@catholic.org.

Emmaus searching for a new place to meet.

Not all of boot camp involved physical activity. He demonstrated his religious upbringing by being selected "Lay Reader" of his platoon; this involved leading Catholics in prayers and spiritual exercises.

Michael is back working at Publix and attending UNF where he is working on a degree that will qualify him for Marine Corps OCS (Officer Candidate School). His ultimate career goal is to be a Marine Corps Ground Officer. This he credits to BK NJROTC for having "whetted" his appetite for the military.

Michael was accepted into the Arlington Council Knights of Columbus #4477, receiving his Third Degree in November, 2001.

It is obvious that Michael is a dedicated, hard working, young man who has accomplished much; but he credits much of his success to his parents, Michael and Doreen Masters, and his grandparents, Mike and Irene Capizzi and Betty Masters.

Michael, we all are proud of you and wish you well in your endeavors.

by Frank Becht

Michael F. Masters, Jr. is a former member of the Bishop Kenny (BK) High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Program. He started his school career at Christ the King School in preschool, kindergarten and the first grade but, due to the family moving, finished his eighth grade at Kirby Smith Magnet School.

At BK, Michael joined the NJROTC Program and immediately took a liking to the high degree of moral expectancy, the physical fitness standards, and the discipline required of its members. He excelled, in his sophomore year becoming Leading Petty Officer, in his junior year Division Officer, and in his senior year as Cadet Company Commander. For a three year period he was Drill Team Commander and in his senior year was selected the National Drill Team Commander (a very special honor).

During his BK years he worked as a cashier at Publix to help with his educational expenses. He was a Stewardship Enrollee from Christ the King, to which he attributes his dedication, hard working, young man who has accomplished much; but he credits much of his success to his parents, Michael and Doreen Masters, and his grandparents, Mike and Irene Capizzi and Betty Masters.

Michael, we all are proud of you and wish you well in your endeavors.

During Michael's high school years he was honored by receiving the BK Scholar Award; this is an award by the teachers of BK for student performance. In his senior year, he also received the Sportsmen's Club Athlete Award, another award for excellence.

On May 25, 2002, Michael graduated from BK with a Bright Future Scholarship (this is a 75% tuition scholarship to any Florida college); Michael selected UNF (University of North Florida) for his college years, where he plans on concentrating on the criminal justice field in law enforcement or the FBI.

On June 18, 2001 between junior and senior years at BK, Michael enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves in the Delayed Entry Program. After graduation, he served 13 weeks in boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina. There his experience in NJROTC proved beneficial and he was appointed squad leader of the platoon. He was selected as "Iron Man" (the most physically fit marine) of the company of six platoons comprising over 300 recruits.

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**BREAK DOWN THE WALLS!**

**LIFE TEEN FALL RETREAT 2002**

by Nancy Powers

On August 30th – September 1st LIFE TEEN took 72 teens to Camp Cherry Lake in Madison, FL to Break Down The Walls and lead them closer to Christ! The teens learned about all the different walls they put up that separate themselves from others and God. We talked about walls of judgement, walls of loneliness, dividing walls and how to keep the walls broken down. The demolition crew of God’s Holy Spirit was definitely present helping the teens clear the debris from their walls and letting God through.

It started on Friday night with Music for LIFE, our awesome band, helping us pray twice by singing our praises to God. They also taught us the theme song and showed us all of the hand motions. We were then introduced to our retreat leader, David Espiritu, and Father Roe, who were with us all weekend. You could definitely feel the Lord's presence in the room with the fellowship among all the teens. After a little bit of praise and pizza we began our first session which helped us to recognize that we do put up different types of walls in our life and how those walls can separate us from others and God.

Saturday was a day filled with faith and fun. We had more sessions about the different walls in our lives and how we could break them down and had some free time to play games, jam out on guitars and hang out with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Just before dinner the teens had a chance to go to reconciliation to start the wrecking ball swinging, break down the walls in their livies, and give it all up to God. Afterward was the high point of the weekend. We knelt for an hour in the presence of our Lord during Adoration, emptied ourselves and were filled with his Holy Spirit! It was an awesome experience! You could feel the faith among the teens as they worshiped and sang praise to our Heavenly Father!

On Sunday, we had our last session of the weekend. The teens committed themselves to God asking for His help to keep their walls broken down and keep shining His light for all to see! How awesome it is to see such faith-filled teens committing themselves to the Lord! We are proud of each and every one of them. After the commitment ceremony it was time to clean up the camp and head back home. The parents provided another awesome welcome home for us and we ended the weekend with Holy Mass. Everyone in the church that night could feel how pumped up the teens were and how much they loved God.

Thank you to everyone who made this retreat possible, especially the parents who cooked wonderful meals for us all weekend and set the environment for each one of our sessions to help us lead their teens closer to Christ. As always, thanks to our retreat leader, David, and Father Roe for leading us on this spiritual journey. Keep breaking your walls down and let the light of the Lord shine through.
Surprise Visits by Holy Ghost Fathers

A Surprise Visit from a Good Friend

by Maggie Damato

I am always excited and overwhelmed when I receive an unexpected visit from an old and dear friend. This must be the feeling Christ the King parishioners felt when Father Brian Carey arrived at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday evening, August 24th, to celebrate the Mass. His first words after his greeting were, "I feel like the bad penny that always returns." Not so, Father Brian, you are not an old penny to us.

Father Brian was invited by our bishop to assist at the Cathedral in St. Augustine during the month of August to allow the parish priests to have a little vacation. Father Carr and Father Roe then in turn volunteered to take Father Brian's duties at the Cathedral for this particular weekend so that Christ the King could entertain Father Carey with a pot-luck dinner.

As usual, there was a tremendous turn-out for the reception. The Parish Hall was decorated beautifully and the food was excellent. It was a wonderful afternoon and I am sure that Father Brian is carrying home many cherished memories. It is our hope that this "bad penny" returns often. "We love you and miss you, Father Carey. Come again soon."

Jean Sell brings Father Tom in from the Airport

Surprise! Surprise! Surprise

Everyone was delightedly surprised when Father Tom McCarthy made an encore visit to Christ the King in October. Our good friend and Holy Ghost Father usually spends the summer with us so our pastor and associate priests can enjoy a vacation. The Balsamo family asked him to return for the marriage of Tina and Patrick Balsamo. He was also able to stay and assist at the parish while Father Thanh made his first pilgrimage to Italy. Needless to say, everyone enjoyed Father Tom's return visit!

Father Thanh welcomes Father Tom back to Christ the King before leaving for Rome

Join us at Christ the King for our Annual Advent Communal Penance Liturgy

December 16, 2002 7 PM in the Church