



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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Vision Sunday #2

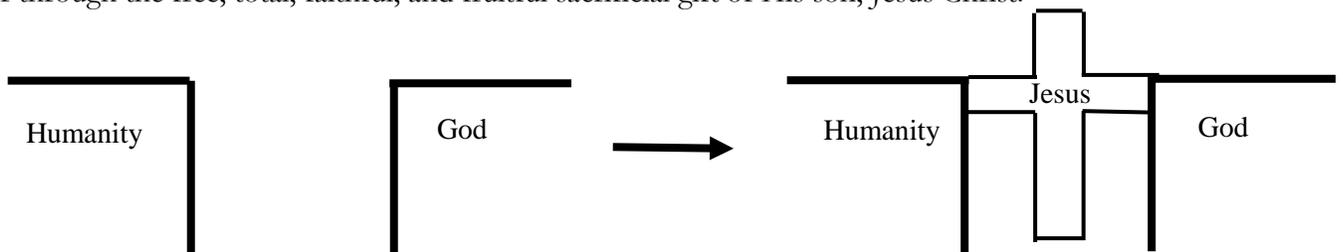
Last month we launched our parish’s new vision statement – Sacred Heart Catholic Church: **Inviting Everyone to Passionately Live the Gospel** and introduced the concept of vision Sundays once a month for six straight months. The purpose of vision Sundays is to further unpack and illuminate this statement and what it means for our parish community going into the future.

One thing I appreciate about the new vision statement is every word was carefully chosen with a specific intent and purpose. This second vision Sunday I’d like to start to begin breaking down the vision statement by taking a look at the end and working backward. So the topic for this weekend is simply the last word of the vision: **Gospel**.

What do you think of when you hear the word ‘gospel’? Many of us probably think of the bible, or perhaps the four gospels that tell the story of Jesus’ life. In our culture the word gospel is often used synonymously with facts (the Gospel truth), or maybe even as a particular form of teaching (ex: the prosperity gospel), but neither of these idioms quite capture what we as Christians mean when we use the word ‘gospel’. The English word ‘gospel’ comes from the Greek word ‘euangelion,’ which translates literally as: **Good News**. One way to understand the good news of the gospel message is to break it down into three parts: good news, then bad news, but then *even better* news.

The first good news is this: You were created by God in His own image and likeness to be amazing and do incredible things! You were created to be happy and not only survive in this world, but to live life fully and abundantly (John 10:10)! God has destined you for greatness and wants to fulfill every desire of your heart. The bad news, however, is you and I are *not* who we are meant or created to be. Sin damages us intensely and separates us from both God and the person we are called to be. The presence of sin in our lives creates a chasm between us and God – a gulf that no matter how hard we try we are not able to bridge. Separation from God leads to isolation, unhappiness, and ultimately, death.

However, the even better news is this: God, in a plan of sheer goodness, sent His only Son to become one of us and ultimately die on the cross as a pure sacrifice of love so that you and I may be restored to the Father. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus makes possible the reality once again that we can become who we were meant to be! This is THE Good News of the Gospel! This is the reality that our parish vision is pointing us toward and inviting us to passionately live – that though we were once dead through sin, we have been restored to life by the love of God the Father through the free, total, faithful, and fruitful sacrificial gift of His son, Jesus Christ.



Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!
Mary, star of the New Evangelization, pray for us!

- Thomas Eskro
Director of Evangelization
and Discipleship

Inviting Everyone
to Passionately Live the Gospel

