St. Gianna Beretta Molla refused to have an abortion and hysterectomy with her fourth child in 1962, despite knowing she would die delivering her baby. She made the ultimate sacrifice for her child, and her bravery and selflessness earned her the title of the patron saint of the unborn.

Respect Life Ministry Coordinator Michele Ferguson believes St. Gianna is an example for us all and her ultimate sacrifice can serve as a guide for the work of this important ministry.

“I am a post-abortive woman myself, and I want people to be more aware of the support needed for post-abortive women,” says Michelle, who has coordinated the Respect Life Ministry at our parish for the past seven-plus years. “This is not something you are just supposed to forget — it’s not something you ever forget. I want to bring awareness to the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in all 50 states.”

At our parish, Michele and the other ministry members work to keep pro-life issues — from conception to natural death — at the forefront of people’s minds and hearts.

During Respect Life Month in October, the ministry will distribute materials on pro-life issues. On Mother’s Day weekend, bottles are distributed and then collected on Father’s Day. Parishioners collect change for Birthright, a place of...
I n the words of Pope St. John Paul II, we are called to “open wide the doors for Christ.” And while all of us can strive to welcome everyone to the Lord’s house, these words hold a special meaning for one ministry in our parish. As the first people to greet parishioners and visitors at the door with a smiling face and warm welcome, ushers provide our church, with an invaluable service.

Parishioner Mike Nuzzo began serving as a fill-in usher shortly after he and his wife, Irene, joined Christ the King seven years ago. Soon, he was ushering regularly and was asked to take on the role of ministry coordinator.

Coordinating the team of ushers at Christ the King is no small undertaking! Mike is responsible for ensuring that there are eight ushers available at each Mass to seat parishioners and visitors, and to help with the collection and presentation of the gifts.

In addition to making sure that the basic logistics of Mass run smoothly, ushers serve another essential purpose — assisting parishioners in need.

“My favorite part of it is helping people,” Mike says. “I like to look at the big picture and see how I can be of help, like helping them into chairs if they are handicapped or taking care of someone if they faint. I had the police come talk to us about what we need to do to better take care of people, and I’m going to have people come train all of us on first aid.”

Perhaps most importantly of all, ushers are called upon by the Church to “open wide the doors for Christ” by providing a warm welcome to the faithful who gather in the house of the Lord.

“We are companions on the journey. When little kids come in, I give them a high five,” he says. “We want them coming! I have a little girl who likes to stand with me and hand out bulletins. I try to get people more involved in our church, because it’s important to us.”

With visitors both young and old, Mike strives to make them feel like a treasured part of our faith family.

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Mike truly enjoys serving as an usher, ensuring that the sanctuary remains a sacred space, helping parishioners in any way he can, and welcoming countless visitors and parishioners with a smile. He encourages anyone who may be interested in joining our team of ushers to come experience the joy of opening doors — and hearts — to Christ!

**Are you interested in learning more about serving as an usher? If so, please contact ministry coordinator Mike Nuzzo at 412-848-914 or mnuzzo@roadrunner.com.**
What is a Stewardship Renewal?
This isn’t a parish fundraiser – far from it. Our annual Stewardship Renewal is the time when we ask each other to re-prioritize the way we use God’s gifts in the Church. It is the time we write down how we will support Christ the King.

Why should I fill out a commitment card?
Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving; or what we at Christ the King call “time, talent, and treasure.” There’s a two-fold reason to complete your card. First, it is an excellent opportunity to move forward spiritually and personally. Second, when you fill out a card, our parish is much better able to manage our many volunteers and make budgeting decisions.

How many parish ministries are there at Christ the King?
“Ministry” is a general term for any parish group, organization, or regular activity. There are dozens of ministries in our parish. You can sign up for certain ministries, or re-commit yourself if you’re already involved.

What if I sign up for a ministry, but later find I’m not very interested?
You are not making a solemn promise to participate in a particular ministry when you mark it on your commitment card. If you find that the parish group is different than you thought, or simply that their meeting time doesn’t fit your schedule, you can change your mind. There are plenty of other ministries to consider.

I’m hesitant to make a firm financial pledge. What if I lose my job?
Your commitment card isn’t a legal contract. If your circumstances change, your gift will change. In Scripture, we are asked to “give according to our means.” So, if you lose your job, you may be unable to give at the level you pledged. Likewise, if you get a promotion, you may be able to give more. That is why at Christ the King, our standard of giving is based upon a percentage of income.

What happens if I don’t fill out a commitment card?
Returning a card is an important part of being an active member of Christ the King. If for some reason you lose your card, we’ll send you a reminder letter with an extra commitment card. Please make every effort to return it!

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE
Please bring your Commitment Card to Mass on Commitment Sunday, October 19-20. How will you use your time, talent & treasure in our parish?

Stewardship of Time
Our definition of Stewardship of Time: Using my time on earth wisely; making time for personal prayer, family prayer, and quality time with friends and loved ones.

The bottom line about prayer: Without prayer, we cannot thrive spiritually. As Catholic Christians, it is a necessity to spend time each day speaking to God. This includes reading Scripture and saying prayers such as the Our Father and Hail Mary, but even more importantly, it should include a heart-to-heart conversation with Jesus. He wants us to bring him all our fears, longings, needs, and desires.

Stewardship of Talent
Our definition of Stewardship of Talent: Using my God-given abilities to strengthen the Church and help others, especially through parish ministries and activities.

The bottom line about parish ministry: No Catholic Christian exists in a vacuum. Scripture makes it clear that we must function within the wider faith community, putting our gifts in the service of others. It’s not enough to go to Sunday Mass; we need to be involved in parish life and ministry.

Stewardship of Treasure
Our definition of Stewardship of Treasure: The wise and just management of my financial resources; giving a proportionate amount of my income to the parish.

The bottom line about financial support: We need to take seriously the Biblical concept of the tithe and start giving based on a percentage of income. It’s our responsibility to support the Church with our personal involvement and our financial support.

What kind of Time commitments should I make? Your commitment card lists several suggestions for how to spend time with God in prayer. Review your current prayer life and take a step forward. For instance, start having daily prayers with your children or spouse. Commit to praying the Rosary on the way to work or reading scripture before bed each night.

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Have you ever wondered why no one really becomes uneasy when someone brings up the first two “Ts” of stewardship – giving of your time or talents – but when the third “T” comes up, many of us become uncomfortable?

That third “T” is treasure, and some people simply become so annoyed by the subject, they tune out the words from the pulpit. Why is there seemingly such an adverse reaction?

Our finances are such a personal subject. Discussing money issues with others is not easy, and having someone tell us what to do with our finances is even worse. We earn the money, after all. So shouldn’t we decide what to do with it?

Discussing financial issues also tends to simply become so annoying by the subject, they tune it out the words from the pulpit. Why is there seemingly such an adverse reaction?

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Respect Life Ministry  continued from front cover

support for women facing unplanned pregnancies. Typically, around $3,500 is collected at our parish.

The group also shares information on the Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn at the Frankfort Cemetery. People can have a name engraved in granite to honor a baby lost through abortion, miscarriage or stillbirth.

In January, the Respect Life Ministry shares information on prayers for the nine days around the anniversary of Roe v. Wade on Jan. 22. The group also shares the pro-life bulletin announcements and Prayers of the Faithful distributed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Michele believes it is not only important to inform people about pro-life issues, but also to support women and men who have experienced an abortion. Michele is also involved with Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats, which are offered to help with healing for men and women who have experienced abortion.

“This is where a lot of post-abortive women and men get healing,” she says. “Men can suffer from losing a child they would want to have kept. They are often forgotten, blamed and then forgotten.”

As for the Respect Life Ministry, plans are in motion to start meeting every other month to possibly add more activities. Right now, there are about eight people in the group and most of the work is done over email. Michele welcomes anyone with a passion for this work to join.

“We want to change hearts and minds to recognize a baby is alive — it’s not just life when it comes out of the womb,” Michele says.

If you would like more information, or to join the Respect Life Ministry, please contact Michele Ferguson at 859-489-0767 or mlfergy123@gmail.com.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil - 5:00 p.m. | Sunday - 7:30 a.m.; 9:00 a.m.; 11:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Daily (Monday to Saturday) - 8:00 a.m. | (Monday to Friday) - 5:30 p.m.

Reconciliation: Wednesday 4:45 - 5:20 p.m., Saturday 3:45 - 4:45 p.m. | First Sunday of the month 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.