

The KING'S Connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Respect Life Ministry Promoting Awareness on Life Issues

OCTOBER 2019

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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



The Respect Life Ministry recently gathered for a meeting. (From front) Michele Ferguson, Mary Kelly, Bridget Fay, Sr. Georgette Andrade and Debbie Pfeifer. Other members include Sally Elder, Barbara Burkard, Rene Leaver and Karen Haley.

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WE ARE COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

AN INSIDE LOOK AT OUR PARISH USHERS MINISTRY

Welcoming Others with the Love of Christ

In 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.

“Welcoming people is important to us,” Mike says. “I tell the ushers we are like the apostles. When people come in, we welcome them with a smile, and when they leave, we say, ‘Have a great week, enjoy yourselves, be careful,’ because we want them to come back. That’s our main drive — that they come back to us.”

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

“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.”

“We try to make it a family church,” Mike adds. “I want everybody to feel like they are wanted and they are needed. That is the most important thing we need to put out there to the church — that these people are needed.”

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!



Mike Nuzzo, coordinator of the Ushers Ministry at Christ the King, with his wife, Irene.

Are you interested in learning more about serving as an usher? If so, please contact ministry coordinator Mike Nuzzo at 412-848-914 or minuzzo@roadrunner.com.

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In his raucous and irreverent hit, Bruce Springsteen passionately sings that “Everybody has a hungry heart... Everybody needs a place to rest; everybody wants to have a home; don’t make no difference what nobody says; ain’t nobody likes to be alone... everybody’s got a hungry heart.” A song in our parish hymnal titled *COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY* makes a more calm and hope-filled response. Its refrain goes “We are companions on the journey, breaking bread and sharing life; and in the love we bear is the hope we share, for we believe in the love of our God.”

Part of the joy of being involved in the life of our parish is offering that companionship which everyone needs. So often when people come to Mass for the first time, they are very much in need of the welcome and orientation offered by an usher. Hospitality is one of the hallmarks of any Church’s ministry. An usher is more than someone who takes up the collection. He or she, or the family who serve as ushers, help visitors feel comfortable in our large and multi-faceted worship space so they can enter into the experience of prayer, mystery and community that are part of our Sunday Masses. We all need companions on the journey. When we come to Mass to break bread together, we all need people who assure us that our hungry hearts will be satisfied.

The Knights of Columbus date back to a time when Catholic immigrants to the United States were targets of religious prejudice. The Knights were established to provide solidarity for Catholic men who often felt on the fringe of society. The Knights developed an insurance policy that was very helpful to its members and their families. The Knights continue today as a Catholic men’s club which nurtures the faith life of its members, guides them to work together on various projects of service, provides a center for their Christian support of one another, and affirms their loyalty to our nation. The Knights of Columbus are pledged to be of service to our parish and the community, and we see them in action in many ways, always with a generous and cheerful spirit. Our Knights of Columbus council numbers more than 175 men. As they care for one

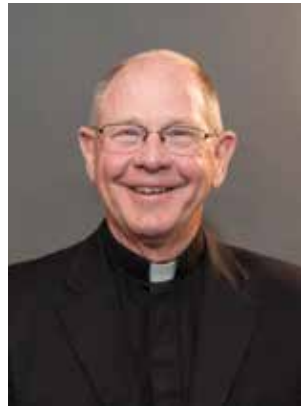
another as brothers and as they live their faith, they are certainly companions on the journey.

Our parish also has a ministry that is focused on Respecting Life. This includes study, advocacy and service to people and all of creation which are at risk of being abused or deprived of a chance to live. The issues within this ministry are many — conservation, people with special needs, the addicted, the aging, racial and religious prejudice, the poor and homeless, immigrants and refugees, prisoners, the victims of violence, the terminally ill, the unborn, the ambivalent parent-to-be. The list goes on. It is a delicate area of ministry. To focus on one issue can lead to neglecting the needs of other people who are vulnerable; to focus on all the issues is overwhelming. It is very helpful to have companions as we study, work for change and care for those who are in need. There are needs for justice, legal reform, forgiveness, empowerment, compassion, healing, charity and conversion. There are many hungry hearts in our community and beyond — the journey to respond to these myriad needs is an uphill climb — we need companions on the journey as we discern our priorities as a parish and as individuals, and then accompany those we are called to serve.

The word “companion” is a link of the Latin words *cum* — with; and *panis* — bread. As Catholics, we offer a special kind of companionship because we are fortified by the Eucharistic Bread of Life, Jesus, sharing His life with us, and inspiring us to care for the hearts of those who are hungry for hope.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Paul Prabell, Rector



BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

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.

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.

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.

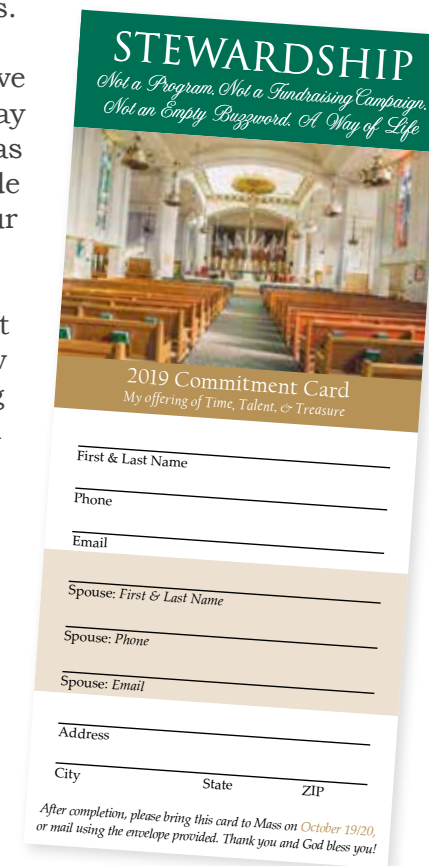
What kind of Talent commitments should I make? If you're not involved in anything in our parish, now is the perfect opportunity to take a step forward. Check out our commitment card for a list of ministries. If you're already involved, re-commit yourself to the important work you do. And if you feel God is calling you forward – sign up for something new!

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 Treasure commitments should I make? Our goal at Christ the King is to give five percent of income to the offertory. Grab a calculator and figure out your target gift based on your total household income. Then make a plan for increasing your gift incrementally to reach five percent. During our Stewardship Renewal, choose a weekly or monthly gift to the parish, and be faithful to it for the next year.



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Giving to God First

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?

Of course, the answer is “yes” – we decide every day how to spend our hard-earned dollars. Indeed, the monetary choices we make will either keep our finances in check, or put us into the red. The average American family has about \$7,000 in credit card debt – so finances certainly represent a challenge to our current society. Tight budgets, trying to “keep up with the Joneses” or poor financial management may

be to blame for our tight resources. Does this mean we do not have anything left over for God?

Stewardship, at its roots, teaches that we are not supposed to give God our “leftovers.” We should instead strive to return to God a portion of our “first fruits” – giving to God first and then using the rest for our other needs. God gave us our talents that help us earn a living, after all. He should come first.

This idea can be worrisome for many. If our finances are already strained, how will we ever find enough to give back to God? Or, if we do try to give God our “first fruits,” will there be enough left over to cover our required expenses?

Taking the correct financial steps toward good stewardship simply boils down to trust – believing that God, who takes care of all of His creation, will take care of us. Trust that in giving to God first, we are both acknowledging that our multitude of blessings come from Him, and that we are thankful He chose to give them to us. And finally, trust that if we give to Him first, that all else will fall into place – because He is in ultimate control.

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The Knights of Columbus

Brothers in Christ Serving the Church and Our Parish

Whether it's popping their famous kettle corn for Oktoberfest, frying fish for the annual Lenten Fish Frys, coordinating a Youth Free Throw Contest, or collecting supplies and funds for those in need, it seems like Cathedral of Christ the King's Knights of Columbus are involved in nearly every aspect of parish life. In the past two years alone, Council 14130 has donated approximately \$45,000 in support to various charities and Catholic endeavors in the hopes of bettering our parish, community and world.

“We're basically a fraternity of Catholic men,” says current Grand Knight Doug Spear. “We do a lot of charitable projects throughout the year, working to help our community and parish. To name just a few, we do Coats for Kids, a Special Olympics Tractor Pull, and the annual Tootsie Roll Drive. We sponsor seminarians with financial needs, helping them throughout their formation, and support numerous pro-life initiatives.”

Doug first got involved in this international organization shortly after his conversion to Catholicism 10 years ago thanks to the personal invitation from a fellow Knight. After doing a little research on the Knights of Columbus, Doug felt increasingly attracted to the ministry seeing it as a great way to live out his new faith while also making a real difference in the world.

“I read up on it, talked to some of the actual Knights, and it just seemed like a great fit,” Doug says. “I just loved the camaraderie involved in the ministry as well as all of the good works they were out there doing for the parish and community.”

Guided by their core values, the Knights of

Columbus enables Catholic laymen such as Doug to make a real difference in the world. Working together within the context of Christian brotherhood, they help support our parish community, provide emergency relief to those in need, advocate for family life, support youth and religious vocations, and work to uphold the sacred dignity of all human life. In the process, says Doug, the Knights themselves are supported by a spiritual brotherhood that challenges them to go deeper in the spiritual journey and supports them during life's inevitable struggles.

“It's such a gift to know you can lean on other people,” Doug says. “For me, it's a support system. I know that I can count on these guys if I'm having any problems — that any one of them are just a phone call away. Then, too, it's a way for us to get deeper into prayer. I've personally been brought so much closer to Christ. It's deepened my prayer life tremendously, making

me much more comfortable with things like going to adoration and praying the Rosary.”

Currently, the council has about 200 members, varying greatly in age and stages in life. They meet the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the parish center for prayer, fellowship and planning. Yet, though the membership body is already considerable, they remain ever eager for new members and new initiatives so that, together, they can continue making the greatest possible impact.

“The more of us that work together, the more we can do for the community,” Doug says. “One person or group can only do so much, but when you have over 100 guys, you can do so much more work.”



Members of Council 14130 before the 2019 Truck Pull.

Those interested in joining or learning more about Cathedral of Christ the King's Knights of Columbus may contact Doug Spear at either 859-608-3757 or kccouncil14130@gmail.com. Prospective members can also visit ctkknights.com to learn more about Council 14130 and its endeavors.

The KING'S Connection

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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.*