



# The KING'S Connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## FACING A GLOBAL CRISIS WITH GREAT FAITH AND CONTINUED DISCIPLESHIP

*Christ the King Cathedral in the Time of COVID-19*

JUNE 2020  
*Inside*

This spring, the global pandemic changed the way Americans live — and worship — in an unprecedented way. While Christ the King, like all Catholic churches across the world, had to adapt to new ways of serving God’s people, one thing remained the same — the strong faith and active discipleship of our parish family. Throughout this time, Fr. Paul Prabell has continued to provide spiritual nourishment for parishioners and has, in turn, been inspired by the acts of love and service he has witnessed taking place in our faith community over these past few months.

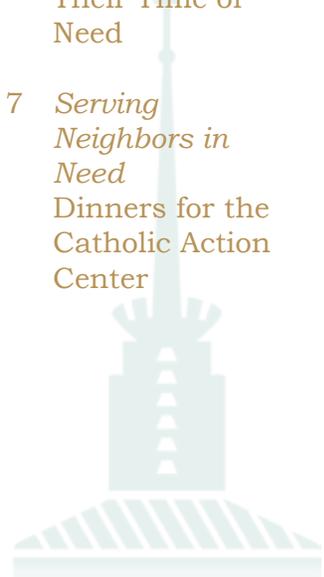
While the Catholic faithful of the world are dearly missing the gift of the Eucharist with the suspension of public Masses, Christ the King has been able to keep our parishioners as closely connected to the sacraments as possible. Fr. Prabell and Fr. Damian Anumba are offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment. And, thanks to the livestream of daily Mass



*During the COVID-19 crisis, Christ the King used the parish website and Facebook page to help spread the word about new ministries, such as the hot meal ministry.*

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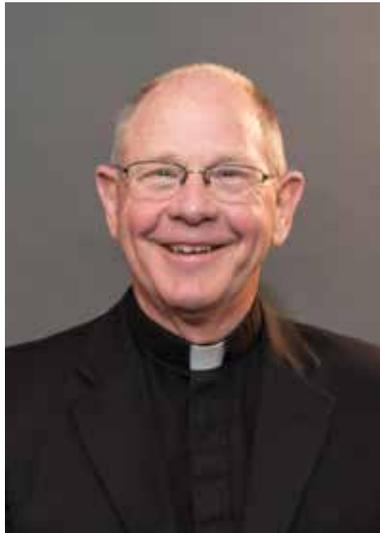


## In an Uncertain Time, We Respond with Love

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In this era of the plague, I refer to a plaque. This plaque is an historical marker in downtown Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut Streets. It is a memento of love. The bronze marker refers to an event on March 18, 1958. Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk and spiritual writer who was a member of the Trappist Monastery just south of Bardstown, was in Louisville running some errands. Merton had stopped at the street corner and was surrounded by a sea of people in the shopping district and simply realized that he loved them all. “I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another, even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world” (*Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*).

Love has been at the heart of our best response to the pandemic. Love has led us to live the paradox of self-isolation and separateness because of concern for the strangers who are also our anonymous brothers and sisters. Love has been at the heart of the actions of those heroes who have done their job, even as they faced levels of stress and risk they had never encountered before. Love is at the heart of our



prayers, as we open ourselves to the mystery of God, a God who is gracious beyond our rational understanding. Love is at the heart of our yearning for the sacraments and for community, as we know that the experience of God’s grace fulfills our need for our souls to be nourished.

We began the month of May thinking of the love that good shepherds have for the sheep they tend. Good shepherds know how vulnerable the sheep are and how universally they are unable to think clearly or defend

themselves, and yet, a good shepherd knows the individual personalities of the sheep, and loves their quirks and will do everything it takes to keep them safe.

As we celebrated Mother’s Day in this period where we have been driven inward, many of us have unlocked hidden memories of our own mothers — memories of their love for us. We reflect on tender love, on unconditional love, on healing and forgiving love, and even on tough love.

One of the most evocative post-Easter stories tells of Jesus appearing to Simon Peter and giving Peter three occasions to balance the triple denial that he had committed on the night before Christ’s death. Three times Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me?” Strikingly as Peter responded “yes,”

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## In an Uncertain Time, We Respond with Love

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Jesus charged Peter to follow Him and to feed the sheep. Love is at the heart of conversion. Upon declaring his love, Peter was reminded by Jesus that he would be led to places and situations of which he would never have dreamed. And just like the Lord would stay with Peter as he faced the unexpected, so too Jesus has been with us as we respond to this pandemic.

I have been edified by the spirit of giving that you and fellow parishioners have had during these difficult times. Thank you for the ways you have been caring for those in need and have been supportive of our parish and school's ongoing needs during this time. Love leads us to be givers!

Any Christian reflection on love takes us to St. Paul's First Letter to the Christian community of the Greek city of Corinth. In the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter, there is the classic ode to love. St. Paul states what love is and what love is not. There are three statements in that passage where Paul writes of what love is.

"Love is patient." We have been able to be patient during the lockdown, because of love, that same kind of love that Thomas Merton had for the strangers, and that a good shepherd has for the sheep. We don't want any more people to suffer, to grieve, to die, and so we patiently persevere as we relinquish much of the free movement that has seemed so normal before the pandemic.

"Love is kind." There has been emerging a new spirit of courtesy, a re-evaluation of our priorities, an appreciation of slowing down, a profound increase of compassion and understanding of one another's situation and plight. As there has been a call to community teamwork while we seek to get through this together, we are cooperating because of the kindness, which is love. Loving kindness frees us to respect one another as we realize there are different approaches to important issues such as re-opening.

"Love rejoices in the truth." The truth sets us free. We need to face the truth that we are not invulnerable, that we need others, that we are part of a community within our Church, within our city and state and nation and with people throughout the world. Our response to the pandemic is leading us to make some significant changes in our lifestyles and our healthcare systems. If we love, we accept and work with truths that we resist. Love rejoices with the ultimate truth that our mysterious and loving God is with us and that God is caring for us and weeping with us, and that God is somehow blessing our world in this time of much suffering.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Paul Prabell, Rector

## Facing a Global Crisis with Great Faith and Continued Discipleship *continued from front cover*

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on Tuesdays and Fridays, and weekend Masses on Saturdays and Sundays, parishioners have been able to watch these liturgical celebrations from their homes.

Technology has also proven a blessing when it comes to continuing to offer faith formation for both the children and adults in our parish. Deacon Tim Weinmann and Dr. Lesley Iwinski have provided our families with twice-weekly Zoom video conference gatherings entitled *Walking with Jesus Through the Coronavirus Pandemic*. Catholic Way Bible Studies continues to offer studies to parishioners through their website, [www.cwbs.org](http://www.cwbs.org), and other parishioner led bible studies have utilized zoom, including one led by our school's Spanish teacher Casey Phillips, and his wife Erin.

In addition to the spiritual solace our parish has provided through online access to Masses and faith formation, a calling ministry has also popped up at Christ the King. In the first weeks of the pandemic, several

volunteers began making phone calls to all parishioners aged 70 and older. As the weeks went on, it was decided that every member of our parish should receive a call. Close to 40 parishioners came together to call parishioners and offer emotional support, prayer and assistance with the delivery of groceries and other essentials.

Vida Laureano is just one caller who feels greatly blessed by her participation in this new ministry.

"It's been a very positive experience," she says. "People have been receptive to the calls, they're appreciative that the church is having volunteers call them and check up on them, and a few are very thankful to share prayer requests."

"It also puts things in perspective for me," Vida continues. "I've called everyone from young families with children at home to middle-aged couples to the elderly that are by themselves. Most people are upbeat and have a positive attitude and are thankful for their circumstances. I personally have gained strength in

seeing how my fellow parishioners are dealing with this crisis and in the humor that some of them exhibit as well. It really has been a very rewarding ministry."

Witnessing the many ways that our parishioners have continued to be active disciples of Christ during this time of social distancing has been a great source of inspiration to all. In addition to offering their continued stewardship of time and talent, countless parishioners are still giving so generously of their treasure to support Christ the King, Catholic Charities, and our new COVID-19 fund for those in need. And in April, parishioners showed their gratitude to our medical personnel by donating 200 meals to healthcare workers at St. Joseph Hospital!

Understanding how difficult this time of church closure is for our Catholic faithful, the priests and staff at Christ the King are greatly heartened to see the continued discipleship of our parishioners and thankful for the blessings that

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***"He's always here to meet us at the door of the church and we expect to meet Him there, but how often do we invite Him into our homes? How often do we look for His presence beyond going to church on Sunday? I believe that once the restrictions are lifted, people will be less likely to take their faith for granted and will appreciate the goodness and richness of their faith. I think we will see a recommitment or renewed commitment of time, talent and treasure."***

— Katie Sheppard, Director of Advancement

## Facing a Global Crisis with Great Faith and Continued Discipleship *continued from page 4*

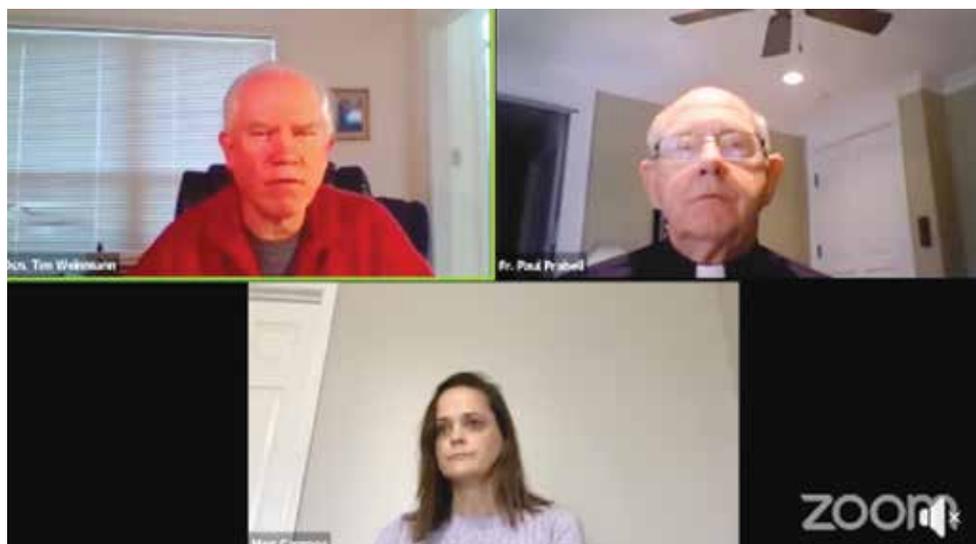
are to be found even in the midst of crisis — a closer walk with God in our everyday lives and a renewed love for the sacraments.

“I think we are all missing Mass, for sure, and the Eucharist,” says Katie Sheppard, Director of Advancement for the parish. “Everyone is missing being in the sacred space of the cathedral and in the presence of the Eucharist.”

“But I think this is also a way of God asking us to invite Him into our lives in a different way,” she continues. “He’s always here to meet us at the door of the church and we expect to meet Him there, but how often do we invite Him into our homes? How often do we look for His presence beyond going to church on Sunday? I believe that once

the restrictions are lifted, people will be less likely to take their faith for granted and will appreciate the goodness and

richness of their faith. I think we will see a recommitment or renewed commitment of time, talent and treasure.”



*Meg Campos, Director of Social Outreach, met for a “virtual coffee” with Fr. Paul Prabell and Deacon Tim Weinmann to discuss the initiation of a new hot meal ministry during the COVID-19 crisis.*

*As our community continues to live out discipleship in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can keep in touch with each other and our pastor and parish leaders and staff on our various media platforms, including our parish website at [www.cathedralctk.org](http://www.cathedralctk.org), and our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ctklexky](http://www.facebook.com/ctklexky). Prayerfully consider continuing to give a portion of your treasure back to God and our parish by making your regular gift to the offertory if you are able to do so. You can give at our online giving portal by clicking “Donate” on our parish website, or you can drop a check in the mail to the parish office. Our mailing address is:*

Cathedral of Christ the King  
299 Colony Blvd  
Lexington, KY 40502

# *The* KING'S *Connection*

## BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

*Provides Loving Assistance to the Grieving  
During Their Time of Need*

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**F**eed the hungry. Give drink to the thirsty. Shelter the homeless. Visit the sick. Visit the prisoners. Give alms to the poor. Bury the dead. These are the seven Corporal Works of Mercy, as taught by Jesus.

When it comes to carrying out the Corporal Work of Mercy of burying the dead, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops says, "Funerals give us the opportunity to grieve and show others support during difficult times. Through our prayers and actions during these times we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and comfort to those who mourn."

Our Bereavement Ministry takes the role of comforting those who mourn in a variety of ways. The Bereavement Ministry is divided into four areas. There are ministers who meet with families to help plan and facilitate the funeral Mass. The Reception Committee handles the post-funeral luncheon or brings food to the home. The committee has two teams and handles the menu, making all the food and arranging flowers and tables. The third group sends care notes every three months — the notes follow a range of topics and are meant to assist in the grieving process. Another option for those grieving is the widows and widowers group, led by Barbara Kincaide, which meets to talk and have Mass together.

Our parish averages 60 to 80 funeral Masses per year. At times, there have been upwards of 14 funerals in one month. A committee of five handles this ministry — when someone passes away, they contact the family members, meet with them and go over the funeral



Mass. As they assist in picking out readings, music and Prayers of the Faithful, they also provide comfort, support and guidance through this process.

"We basically serve as a liaison between the family and everybody else," says Cindy Kopczyk, who has been a member of this ministry for more than nine years.

Cindy is comfortable working directly with bereaved families, as she served as an intensive care nurse for many years. But as she points out, no special skills are needed to assist in this ministry.

"You just need to have a call to help and serve people in their times of need," she says.

Cindy says this ministry has been a huge blessing to her personally. She first became involved when her mother-in-law passed away — she saw what a huge help and service this ministry was to her and her family.

"The bereaved are so overwhelmed with so many details, they are often functioning in a state of shock," Cindy says. "We are there to help support them and provide guidance, with the help of the Holy Spirit, during a very trying time."

Cindy encourages anyone with a heart of service to learn more about this ministry and get involved. She says there is an extensive training process for new volunteers.

"This is a unique ministry," she says. "The Holy Spirit guides us. This strengthens my faith each time I do it. It's a blessing to be part of the bereaved families' lives for a short time."

*If you would like to learn more about our ministries that serve the bereaved,  
please call Cindy Kopczyk at 859-321-4328.*

## SERVING NEIGHBORS IN NEED

# Dinners for the Catholic Action Center

Though service often begins within the faith community, it isn't meant to remain there. Christ makes it plain throughout the Gospels that going out and serving others is a core part of discipleship. Parishioner Vanessa Gomez says that Cathedral of Christ the King's ministry of bringing meals to the Catholic Action Center helps parishioners live out this calling by serving the homeless and oftentimes marginalized of society.

"In the Bible, we see Jesus serving the poor and less fortunate in so many ways," Vanessa says. "This is our way of following His example, bringing Jesus to them through our smiles and love — our way of truly living out the Gospel message."

Vanessa first began her outreach to the homeless while living in Miami, Fla. There, she participated in a ministry that would prepare and personally deliver meals to the local homeless.

"They would be living under the bridges or on various streets," Vanessa says. "We knew where they were and would just go and feed them, together cooking about 500 meals."

So when Vanessa later moved to the Lexington area, she was eager to continue serving in a similar capacity. She soon joined and took on the leadership role for the Cathedral's monthly dinner for the Catholic Action Center (CAC) a local organization dedicated to providing food, shelter and the connection to services for those in need within the Lexington area.

Vanessa says that the ministry operates by providing and serving food for the CAC the third Thursday of each month, feeding anywhere from 150-200 people in need. Though meals vary depending on the season, parishioners work together to provide a full meal as well as drinks and desserts.

"In the wintertime we'll make heavier, warm food while in the summertime, we serve a lighter course," Vanessa says. "Parishioners are able to sign up to prepare a dish or serve, depending on their preferences and schedule. We always have

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*Cathedral of Christ the King parishioners are ready to serve the residents of the Catholic Action Center during Christmastime.*

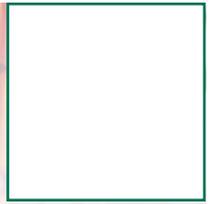


*By physically feeding and serving the CAC residents, parish volunteers simultaneously show them the love of Christ.*



# The KING'S Connection

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cathedralctk.org | (859) 268-2861



## Catholic Action Center *continued from page 7*

a good crowd and our people seem to really enjoy both cooking and serving.”

Though parishioners volunteer primarily to feed the CAC residents physically, Vanessa says that there are also strong emotional and spiritual components to the ministry — for in providing that specially cooked meal for the shelter’s men and women, volunteers also provide residents with a tangible reminder of God’s love for them. Those serving, meanwhile, are given an opportunity to more fully embrace the discipleship way of life while

also being reminded of their own many blessings.

“It helps you see how truly blessed you are,” Vanessa says. “I think, too, by helping in this way we feel less scared or intimidated when we encounter homeless people. We see their eyes and their smile, and begin to gain a respect for them. You begin to see Jesus in them and truly live out the Gospel message. We can’t judge, you know, because we never know where they are coming from — what happened to lead them to these circumstances. We’re there to simply love and share Jesus with them.”

*If you are interested in helping with the preparation of or serving of future Catholic Action Center dinners, please contact Vanessa Gomez at 786-251-4239 or [Vanessagomez311@gmail.com](mailto:Vanessagomez311@gmail.com).*

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### LITURGY SCHEDULE

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