



The KING'S Connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

COMING BACK STRONGER THAN EVER AT CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL

Students and Faculty Ready to Overcome in 2020-21

When Christ the King School staff chose to focus on the themes of “Everybody Counts” and “Overcomer” for the 2019-20 school year, they had no idea how relevant these two concepts would become. Yet, in the wake of the early school closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, these themes took on an entirely new meaning that Principal Paula Smith hopes will continue to strengthen the school for many years to come.

“I just really saw the teachers and staff rise up, overcoming the challenges and learning new skills,” Mrs. Smith says. “There was a big learning curve for a lot of them, getting past videotaping themselves or going live, for example. We also really promoted our teachers to focus on that relationship with each child, to be in front of the student or connecting with their students as much as possible — because that is what makes our school so special, the relationships that we have with our students and families.”

Recognizing that the school children were experiencing all different kinds of circumstances, the staff tried to adapt an approach of compassion

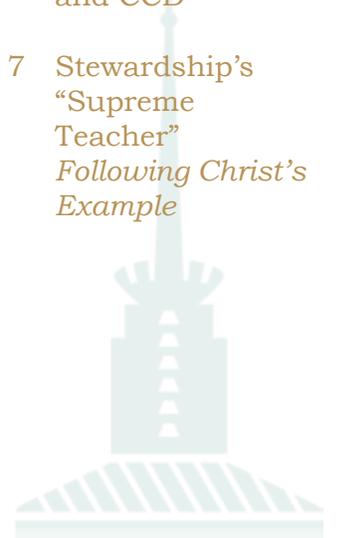


One of the Christ the King eighth-grade graduates with a yard sign during the COVID-19 pandemic.

AUGUST 2020

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and support, meeting each family where they were and to help in whatever ways possible. This is something that Mrs. Smith says the school will continue to focus on for the 2020-2021 school year, as families continue to adjust to the financial fallout of the pandemic.

“As part of that initiative, we’ve been inviting our school and parish community to continuously strive to find ways to support one another,” Mrs. Smith says. “We’ve given people the opportunity to help support financially families, for example, who maybe need some financial assistance during this time. We’ve also created a prayer list as prayer continues to be the most important way for us to support one another.”

To help the school move forward with continued intentionality, Mrs. Smith has formed three summer committees consisting of staff and community volunteers — School Operation, Teaching and Learning, and Faith Formation and Community. Though the groups’ areas of focus differ, each one of these committees has been designed to help the school reflect and build upon the successes of the past, so as to enter the new school year stronger and better prepared than ever.

“We’ve got a great variety of community members on these committees, enabling us to look at things from many perspectives,” Mrs. Smith says. “One thing that we have already discussed is wanting to put a greater emphasis on servant leadership in the school. We’ve been doing a study with our teachers the last couple of years on servant leadership, and now we’re trying to expand that to the larger school community.”

Mrs. Smith also hopes to refocus on the school’s roots, drawing strength from the rich heritage at Christ the King and remaining centered on the most important thing of all — spreading the love of Christ to His children.

“Christ the King is such a special place,” Mrs. Smith says. “It’s strong in tradition and its families are connected to the school in lots of ways. In the midst of all of these changes and uncertainty, one thing that I have really tried to emphasize is that we are still a community, even if we are separated. There is still a lot of activity, love, kindness and learning going on, even when we may not see it.”

If you would like more information about Christ the King School, please visit www.ctkschool.net or contact 859-266-5641.



Though school looked a little different this spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students were still excited to continue their learning.



Even when students were learning at home, faith remained central to our Christ the King curriculum.

A LETTER FROM OUR CATHEDRAL RECTOR

It Is What We Do: *As Faithful Stewards, We Are “Much Obligated”*

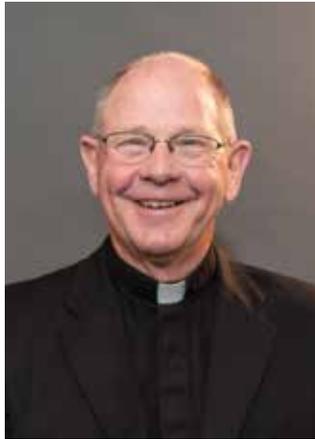
Dear Brothers and Sisters:

She was free. She was no longer a slave. She was glad to be leaving the farm. She and the children were riding in a stagecoach through Texas. Her husband had sent for them and sent money for the trip and other expenses. He had struck it rich as a gold miner in California and he and his wife were ready to fulfill their dreams of living a good life together as a family. Their clothes and some furniture were tied to the top of the coach and she had most of their savings in her purse. Suddenly, the stagecoach had to stop because fallen trees were blocking the road. From the hills came a band of bandits who shot and wounded the stagecoach driver's assistant, who was riding shotgun. The bandits had no respect for a woman of color — they did not feel that her life mattered. They made her and the children get out of the coach and proceeded to take whatever they thought was valuable.

Suddenly from another nearby hill, she heard an orchestra playing the William Tell Overture. She heard the words, “Hi Ho Silver, Away.” A white horse came racing to their plight, ridden by a man dressed in white and wearing a black mask. A man indigenous to the region was by his side, riding a pinto horse named Scout. Immediately the robbers were dispatched. One of them dared to shoot at the Lone Ranger. He missed and the Lone Ranger shot him dead, but the bad guy did not bleed. (They never did on those TV westerns which penetrated our psyches.)

When all was put back together — the dead buried, the wounded patched up and the coach reloaded — the woman was very lavish in her expression of gratitude to the masked man and his team member. The Lone Ranger simply tipped his hat and said, “Much obliged, ma'am.”

MUCH OBLIGED... MUCH OBLIGED... “It is what I do... it flows from my connection with you as part of God's family... I am obliged by my code of honor to rescue damsels in distress... it is my chosen



obligation” says our masked man in his heart of hearts.

These crisis days of COVID-19 are less exciting than the Wild West, but are fraught with dangers and call for us masked men and women to live in ways that protect ourselves and others as we wait for the discovery of the “silver bullet” vaccine. One of the Church's protective strategies has been to dispense us from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday. When the day comes that it will be safe to gather in church like we did in pre-COVID

times, we will realize that there is a difference between an externally imposed obligation and an internally imposed obligation. An internally imposed obligation flows from the realization of how much we have been blessed, and we feel obliged to share our blessings.

With an internal obligation, we want to go to Mass on Sunday. It is part of who we are. We see it as a key to living well. It flows from our connection with God's family and our desire to share the gift of our faith with others, with the Church, and to praise and give thanks to God. We understand that participating in Sunday Mass leads us to give of ourselves with joy, to put our accomplishments in perspective, to live in peace with life's mysteries, and to do our part in protecting those who are in distress.

In a similar manner, we are stewards of our time, our talents and our treasure — not because of some externally imposed obligation, but because of our internal obligation: “That's what we do.” Let's imagine that Holy Mother Church or the Blessed Virgin expresses gratitude to us for our faith, our discipleship and our stewardship. Perhaps all we need to say is, “Much obliged, ma'am.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Paul Prabell

Fr. Paul Prabell, Rector

The KING'S *Connection*

Bringing Hope to the World Through

For Rebecca Whitney, our parish youth aren't just "teenagers" who are difficult to deal with. They are, in fact, beautiful, blossoming young people, being prepared to offer tremendous hope to the world around them.

"The greatest blessing about working with our youth is being able to build relationships with them," says Rebecca, who serves as our parish Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. "Our young people are really amazing! They have deep questions, and they are really searching. They are really open and they really know their Catholic faith. It is so inspiring to work with them. They are very caring towards each other as well. I have really enjoyed getting to know them."

Rebecca coordinates our parish Middle School Youth Group, which serves students in sixth and seventh grades. During their meetings, the group covers various Catholic teachings and themes, and enjoys doing an experiential activity that highlights the day's topic. The youth also play games, have fellowship and snacks, and share in team-building and outdoor activities. Furthermore, they spend time with Christ in meaningful ways.

"We do Bible studies together, take trips to the Adoration Chapel, and set aside time for meditation," Rebecca says. "While the youth are in adoration, they are encouraged to write letters to Jesus and Mary. After our prayer time,





Young Adult Ministries and CCD

we talk about what is going on in their lives, and they share about the difficulties they are struggling with. In closing, we intercede for one another, and discuss how they are going to go forth and be a gift to themselves and their families throughout the upcoming week.”

In addition, Rebecca organizes a Confirmation program for our parish eighth-graders, though Middle School Youth Group members are also highly encouraged to attend. This ministry utilizes *Decision Point*, a popular Confirmation program produced by Dynamic Catholic, along with supplemental materials from Ascension Press. Confirmation preparation includes

retreats to help the youth encounter Jesus in a profound way, as well.

“We strongly emphasize ministry work and service projects in our Confirmation program,” Rebecca says. “We have a Parish Life Hour during which we do work within the parish. We also help at various local charities and volunteer at the Catholic Action Center.”

Thirdly, Rebecca offers a High School Youth Group, which meets for small-group discussions on challenging and interesting topics; social nights; games; movie nights with teaching points; and discipleship activities.

Furthermore, our parish also offers

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Young Adult Ministries and CCD

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Confraternity of Catholic Doctrine (CCD) classes to 3-year-olds to those in fifth grade. They take place on Sundays from about 10:20 to 11:20 a.m., from September through May, in the parish school building. They are well attended — this past year, 225 students were enrolled.

The CCD classes are designed to meet the needs of home-schooled children or those attending private non-Catholic schools or public schools. The classes follow a framework provided by the Archdiocese of Louisville that covers fundamental Catholic doctrine and social teachings in an age-appropriate, enjoyable way.

“Through our CCD program, I hope that our students to develop a love for the Catholic Church, and gain a sense of community at our parish,” says Coordinator of Children’s Catechesis Karen Kirkland. “We want them to learn a lot, but also have fun so that they look forward to coming. We try to do creative and enjoyable activities. For example, every year the fifth-graders receive a bowling pin and they are asked to decorate it as a saint. They then write about the saint on an index card, and we display the pins and cards in our parish gathering space.



For further information on these enriching faith formation opportunities, as well as upcoming meeting times and locations, please refer to parish emails, our parish website and future parish bulletins. If you would like to volunteer, contact Karen Kirkland at 859-266-0302 or Rebecca Whitney at 859-268-1268. To register your child for CCD, please visit our parish website, download a registration form, and submit it to the parish office.



Stewardship's "Supreme Teacher" *Following Christ's Example*

Former President and Five-Star General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "You don't lead by hitting people over the head — that's assault, not leadership." President Eisenhower's words are both blunt and humorous, but he makes a great point. Almost any successful endeavor in life requires the benefit of strong leadership. And a truly effective leader does not lead by simply telling others what to do, but by providing a strong example of how to carry oneself on a daily basis.

This is no different for us in our lives as Catholic Christians. As individuals who face numerous difficult choices every day, we require a leader who, through word *and* example, can show us the path to living according to God's will. For us, Jesus is the supreme teacher of every aspect of Christian life, and His life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have learned, stewardship — the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us — is a big part

of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living.

Jesus' nature of selfless service, documented many times throughout the New Testament and culminating with His death for our sins, is an underlying aspect of living the stewardship way of life. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops points out in its pastoral document *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "In Jesus' teaching and life self-emptying is fundamental. Now, it might seem that self-emptying has little to do with stewardship, but in Jesus' case that is not so. His self-emptying is not sterile self-denial for its own sake; rather, in setting aside self, he is filled with the Father's will, and he is fulfilled in just this way" (19).

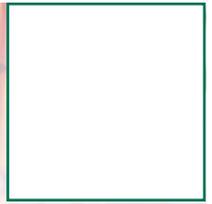
Jesus points out to Peter in Mark's Gospel that this "self-emptying" requires sacrifice, but ultimately leads to "eternal life in the age to come" (Mk 10:30). But the Christian steward's ultimate reward is not his or her only benefit from living the stewardship way of life. By sharing of our time, talent, and treasure, and

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living in imitation of Christ, we can relate more closely to Him in sharing, in a small way, in His sacrifice. “To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living” (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 21).

The next time you are frustrated or unsure of how to best respond to God's gifts in stewardship, take a moment to open up the Bible. Jesus may not “hit us over the head” in His leadership, but He does provide numerous examples through His actions and teachings of how to live as one of His disciples.

Christ's life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have learned, stewardship — the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us — is a big part of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living.

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.*