

Christ the King

August 24, 2017

My dear friend,

When Peter professed his faith that Jesus is the son of the living God, the Lord declared to him, "upon this rock I will build my church." Some 2,000 years later, as our faith has flourished to the four corners of the world, we too have become rocks – living stones – to provide a foundation of hope for the hopeless and joy for the sorrowful. At Christ the King, our work has found particular substance in the annual "Corporal Works of Mercy" initiative – to shelter the homeless and visit the sick – as we strive to become more Christ-like in giving aid and comfort to the less fortunate.

For many of us, I suspect, it is difficult to comprehend the peril that surrounds Christianity in many parts of the world where religious persecution is prevalent. Most cannot grasp what it would be like, as Orthodox Christian refugees, to risk everything to escape with their families from such oppression and poverty in search of the basic freedoms that we are blessed to have in this country. Through our support of Habitat for Humanity, alongside other Catholic parishes, we fund the construction of a home for a refugee family each year, helping them complete their journey to the "Land of the Free" by enabling them to purchase suitable housing.

Likewise, most of us could not easily imagine a life destined to be lived out in a group home for the developmentally disabled, dependent on others for virtually every necessity. Yet, the annual Christmas party, hosted here at Christ the King by the Knights of Columbus for the 72 people living at Mur-Ci Homes and their caregivers, offers us a chance to bring a little joy into the residents' lives and provides a brief diversion for the caring staff. This year, because of your kindness, the Knights were able to expand this work, inaugurating a new summer festival on the campus at Mur-Ci Homes.

I cannot fully express my gratitude to this parish for its wonderful and generous support of our Corporal Works of Mercy efforts in the past. This coming weekend, August 26-27, we again will have an opportunity to share our many blessings with those who are indeed the least among us. The Knights will be at all exits after mass to collect immediate contributions. There also will be envelopes in the pews and at the entrances to the church that you may take home as you consider a more meaningful gift. You may drop those into the collection at any time, mail your contribution to the parish office, or visit www.ctk.org for online giving. Unless designated otherwise, all gifts received will be divided between Habitat and Mur-Ci Homes based on the respective cost of their endeavors.

In Christ,



Rev. Dexter Sutton Brewer
Pastor