



The Open Door

Open wide the door to Christ! - St. John Paul the Great

SEPTEMBER 2019

VOLUME 2.12

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Divine Renovation

The 1950s model of "Father knows best" is long out-of-date. To move forward effectively, new leadership structures are needed.

by Fr. Ed Fride

"There is much talk in our Church today about crises... I contend that our deepest crisis is an identity crisis, and that these other crises are but symptoms of this deepest crisis of all: we have forgotten who we are and what we are called to do as a Church."

Fr. James Mallon,
Divine Renovation

Is this true? At Christ the King, don't we do all of those things we are called to do as a Church? We have Mass and the other Sacraments, religious education for kids and adults, councils and commissions, etc., etc., and all the usual things that typically characterize American Catholic parish life, plus an additional set of elements because of our call to be a charismatic parish. So what's missing?

Fr. James answers that question by reminding us, as most of the documents of the Second Vatican Council did, that the Great Commission applies to all of us who are baptized. This means that we have a fundamental call on our lives to spread the Good News of the Lord Jesus! He notes, in a statement that is pretty accurate for the overwhelming majority of parishes, "We, however, have so forgotten our essential

"We exist to joyfully worship God and carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit." -
Mission Statement of Christ the King

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It will always be a focus of this parish, at least as long as I am pastor, to care for our families, the domestic Church. But does that somehow exempt us from being the missionary people the Holy Fathers have been calling us to be?

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Divine Renovation

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missionary calling that we have contented ourselves with maintenance and serving ourselves. That the Church exists for the sake of mission has been asserted by popes and theologians continuously for the last 50 years...but most parishes... focus at best on meeting the needs of parishioners.”

Does that apply to us?

If it does, it is particularly incongruous with our history, since the parish was born out of a great flurry of evangelizing charismatic activity.

Several years ago at our Easter Vigil, I preached about what I saw as something of a transition of this. I mentioned that in the beginning, we were so fired up that if anyone got within ten feet of us, they heard the Gospel. Then, as we got older and busier, we were often content with at least praying for people who told other people about Jesus. Now, we write checks to people who tell people about Jesus. But is that all we are called to do?

Obviously, there is much about our lives that is very different from back then. We are no longer mostly a fired-up group of more or less college-age folks; many of those college-age students now have college-age students of their own!

To participate in the Divine Renovation Network, each parish is required to select some tool of renewal and evangelization. For that we chose Alpha. But what about the leadership structure?



We have a great and necessary focus on our families. It will always be a focus of this parish, at least as long as I am pastor, to care for our families, the domestic Church. But does that somehow exempt us from being the missionary people the Holy Fathers have been calling us to be? Our own Bishop has issued his pastoral letter on evangelization and has taken the diocese on this journey to ensure that all our parishes become more and more focused on, not only facilitating their own members' transformation in Christ, but in reaching out both to those we have lost and to those who have not yet heard the Good News.

Several years ago, we were invited to participate in the Amazing Parish Conference in the Archdiocese of Detroit. This incredible conference highlighted for me two significant issues:

- First, the need to move our parishes from just maintaining the status quo, continuing a pattern that was essentially modeled on 1950s Catholicism, to instead being mission-oriented, both internally and externally.
- Second, that new leadership structures were necessary if that was going to happen more effectively. The 1950s model of “Father knows best” with the lay peoples’ response being to simply “pray, pay, and obey” is long out-of-date.

As the clergy and Parish Pastoral Council of Christ the King explored different ways to facilitate this transformation that our Bishop has called us to, we eventually settled on the Divine Renovation Network. It dovetailed nicely with our Bishop’s own instruction to the whole diocese.

To participate in the Divine Renovation Network, each parish is required to select some tool of renewal and evangelism which it will include as a serious part of

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Divine Renovation

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parish life. The Bishop, as you may remember, had already ordered all the parishes of the Diocese of Lansing to adopt some tool of renewal and evangelism that every parish was to utilize at least twice a year. So it was no great surprise that when we approached the Bishop for his permission to join the Divine Renovation Network, we found out that he knew all about it and was very supportive of us joining. For that renewing and evangelizing tool we chose Alpha, and we are now in our third year of doing Alpha as a parish.

But what about the leadership structure? The Divine Renovation Network, like Amazing Parish and many other organizations facilitating parish renewal, promotes the concept of a parish leadership team (what we refer to at CTK as the Senior Leadership Team or SLT). This is a team made up of key parish leaders who collaborate with the pastor in leading the parish. Under this model, the SLT is distinct from the Parish Pastoral Council, which operates now as a group more concerned with longer-term goals and directions for the parish. A rough analogy would be that the SLT is involved more with the day-to-day approach (think tactics) and the PPC is more concerned with long-term direction (think strategy).

Ideally, the SLT is five to seven members who are in significant staff or other parish leadership positions, who each have, not

Several of the parishes in our diocese that are really leading the way for parish renewal are all adopting the leadership team approach.



only responsibility for a particular area of parish life, but also a vision for how to serve the parish as a whole. This is really a change from how staff functioned previously (or still do in many parishes) where they are responsible just for their own little corner of the Kingdom, and not a lot of communication or cooperation happens between them.

Our first SLT was composed of parish leaders, none of whom were paid staff (except me), but all of whom had significant roles in the parish: Bill Pressprich, chair of the Parish Pastoral Council; Rick Hendricks, chair of the Parish Finance Council; Dcn Dan Foley, the senior deacon in our parish; and Sr. Dorcee Clarey, the mother superior of the Servants of God's Love. The goal ultimately would be to have the SLT made up entirely of staff. As members have gone off the SLT, they have been

replaced by staff; additional staff have also been added.

It should be noted that several of the parishes in our diocese that are really leading the way for parish renewal are all adopting the leadership team approach. The pastor is still the pastor, but decisions are made much more collaboratively with this group. In the same way, Bishop Boyea is still the Bishop, but he, too, now functions with the advice of a diocesan-level senior leadership team. The wisdom of having multiple folks in the decision-making process, with different expertise and different gifts, should be self-evident. For example, maybe a geriatric celibate male doesn't have all the insights in terms of supporting family life that the father of a large family that includes both Catholic school and homeschool kids might. (Ya think???)

It is an adventure, and we very much appreciate your patience with us as we try to continue to seek the will of the Lord Jesus as He calls us to serve the People of Christ the King. Unfortunately, trickle-down infallibility does not reach to this level, so we would really appreciate that patience! We will make mistakes, or should I say, more mistakes, but we trust that the King of Kings will continue to guide us!

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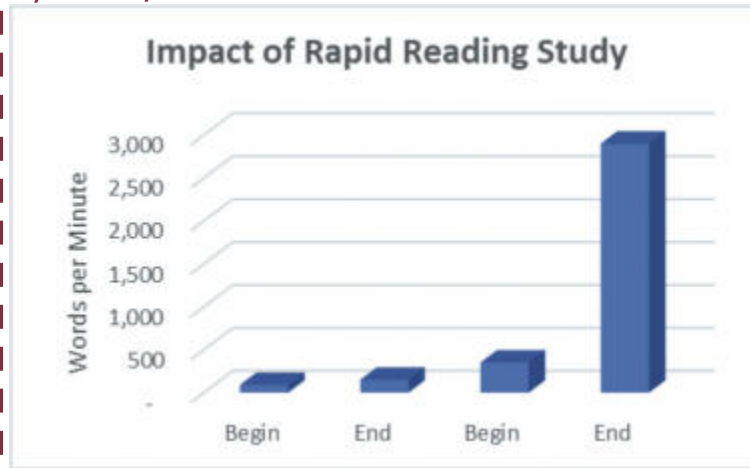


Fr. Ed Fride is Pastor of Christ the King.

Lead with your strengths!

by Bill Pressprich

A research project in Nebraska in the 1950s showed that students who were fast readers to begin with benefited more from learning ways to improve their reading speed. This insight led Donald Clifton to research and develop the field of strengths-based psychology.



During the 1950s, the Nebraska School Study Council did a research project to evaluate different methods for teaching rapid reading. At the end of the project they found that each of the methods produced similar results. But the impact on students with different reading abilities was startling. Average students improved their reading from about 90 words a minute to 150. But students who were fast readers at the beginning of the study increased reading from approximately 350 words a minute to over 2,900!

Donald Clifton, a developmental psychologist, was involved in this study. He knew that students who worked in areas that used their natural talents, like reading, would achieve amazing results. Clifton went on to develop StrengthsFinder®, an assessment tool to identify areas of natural talent

"I praise You, because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

This verse from Psalm 139:14, tells us about our identity: that

*God created each of us
as unique, wonderful
people. It is often easy to
forget who we are—and
Whose we are!*

God created each of us as unique, wonderful people. In my experience, it is often easy to forget who we are—and Whose we are! We are each created by God, with our own unique talents, passions, personalities, motivations. No, we are not like everyone else, nor is everyone else like us.

The Clifton StrengthsFinder provides insight into our natural talents. "Talent" in this context is defined as "a naturally recurring pattern of thought, feeling, or behavior that can be productively applied." Clifton studied these patterns and identified 34 Signature Themes of talent. For example:

Achiever: People exceptionally talented in the Achiever theme **work hard, possess great stamina, and take immense satisfaction in being busy and productive.** Perhaps you can identify with this or know of someone else who does.

Empathy: People exceptionally talented in the Empathy theme can **sense other people's feelings by imagining themselves in other's lives or situations.** This talent is considered one of my areas of "lesser strength," but thank God, others on our SLT have this as one of their "dominant" strengths.

Why are strengths important? Research indicates that people who work in areas that focus on using their strengths are:

- **Three times more likely** to report having an excellent quality of life.
- **Six times as likely** to be engaged in their jobs.
- **Achieve more** on a daily basis.
- **Have more** innovative moments and positive interactions with others.

Many people at Christ the King have taken the StrengthsFinder test and increased their self-awareness and understanding of how they impact others. It may be used to help people discern

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Meet the Senior Leadership Team

by Theresa Hofer



Fr. Ed Fride

Fr. Ed was born in Duluth, MN, the oldest (by 12 minutes) of six children. Raised

in the Congregational denomination, he became Catholic in 1971.

Fr. Ed was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Memphis, TN, in 1986. He came to Christ the King Catholic Association in 1989, where he served as an assistant chaplain with Fr. Frank McGrath.

In November 1992, Fr. Frank returned to his home diocese of Bridgeport, CT. Fr. Ed was then appointed pastor of Christ the King by Bp. Kenneth Povish in January 1993. In April 1997, Bp. Carl Mengeling canonically established Christ the King with full parish status and, in November 1997, installed Fr. Ed as pastor.

In addition to serving as CTK's pastor, Fr. Ed has served as chaplain, teacher, dean of theology, and interim principal at Fr. Gabriel Richard High School; chaplain at Huron Valley Catholic School and Spiritus Sanctus Academy; on the Diocese of Lansing (DOL) Board of Education; and currently on the DOL Priest Assignment Board. He also serves as chaplain and board member of the Association of Hebrew Catholics and is an intercessor for both the Navy UDT/SEAL Association and the US Marine Association/Foundation. Active in the Charismatic Renewal since 1971, he maintains ties with the Word of God and

Word of Life communities and participates in the Washtenaw County Pastors Alliance for County Transformation (PACT). Fr. Ed and seven of his DOL brother priests are currently exploring founding a local chapter of the Companions of Christ. His Clifton Strengths-Finder top five strengths are Learner, Input, Connectedness, Strategic, and Belief.

Ken Bogan

Ken is a native of southeast Michigan. He grew up in South Lyon and gradu-



ated from Eastern Michigan University with a degree in Accounting in 1988. He worked in finance for Scio Township and the City of Ann Arbor, retiring from Ann Arbor in 2016.

Ken joined the staff as Christ the King's Director of Operations in December 2016. In his role, he oversees parish finances, facilities, office administration, and communications.

Ken, his wife, Juliet, and their family joined Christ the King in 2006. They are the parents of eight children, ages 26 to 9. In addition to his work on staff, Ken is a member of the Knights of Columbus and has served on the Life Teen Core Team and as an Alpha table host. His Clifton Strengths-Finder top five strengths are Strategic, Ideation, Analytical, Learner, and Relator.

Dcn. Dan Foley



Dcn. Dan is a native of Chicago, where he married his wife, Dolly, in January 1965. They have two daughters and eight grandchildren.

Dcn. Dan was an executive and attorney for major corporations with an expertise in human resources and labor relations. He served as president of a number of corporations and retired as VP Human Resources of Masco Corporation in 2007.

Dcn. Dan and Dolly became involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 1975, working with Fr. Frank McGrath in Connecticut. He was ordained to the diaconate in the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT, in 1979. They moved to Michigan in 1988 to rejoin Fr. Frank. He has served at the parish for over 31 years.

Dcn. Dan currently serves as Chair of the Spiritual Life Commission and Supervisor of the parish deacons. He also serves as Chairman of the Boards of both Renewal Ministries and Hope Clinic and on the Emmanuel House Board. He represents the parish on the National Service Committee Council of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Previously, he served as Reactive Chair of the National Advisory Council to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and Co-Chair of Bp. Boyea's Task Force on Engagement, which led to the bishop's 2012 pastoral letter to the diocese.

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Meet the Senior Leadership Team

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He and his wife, Dolly, are members of both the Knights of Malta and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus. His Clifton StrengthsFinder top five strengths are Learner, Arranger, Intellection, Strategic, and Achiever.



John Hoving

John was born and raised in Grand Rapids in a family that didn't practice any religion. In college, he had an encounter with God's love that set his faith on fire. After entering the Catholic Church in 1999, he immediately became involved in ministry, serving on Life Teen, teaching NFP with his wife Julia, leading Bible studies, and becoming active in Right to Life.

Before coming to Christ the King in 2016, John taught in a public middle school in Midland for five years. Then, at the invitation of Bp. Robert Carlson, former Bishop of Saginaw, he served two years as a Catholic middle school principal and six years as a high school principal.

As Director of Youth Discipleship, John is responsible for middle school and high school faith formation, including the Confirmation program, and supervises the Assistant Director of Youth Discipleship, Susan Perrier, who handles the preschool and elementary school programs.



Theresa Hofer is editor of *The Open Door*.

John and Julia have seven children, ages 17 to 2. His Clifton StrengthsFinder top five strengths are Connectedness, Empathy, Ideation, Restorative, and Adaptability.

Sharon Messiter

Sharon is a native of Chesaning, MI, the youngest of 10 children in a devout Catholic family. She came to Ann Arbor to work in 1987 and met her husband Paul three years later. They were married in 1992 and have four children, ages 24 to 19.

Sharon and her family joined the parish in 2008. She initially worked at Christ the King part-time as a receptionist from 2012 to 2015. We were blessed to have her return as our full-time secretary and scheduling coordinator in 2017. Over time, in keeping with her many gifts, she has taken on additional responsibilities, including bookkeeping and serving as personal assistant to the pastor. (If secretaries rule the world, Sharon is at least a queen. ☺)

In addition to her roles on staff, Sharon spent many years volunteering at her children's school, Spiritus Sanctus Academy. Her Clifton StrengthsFinder top five strengths are Harmony, Connectedness, Relator, Responsibility, and Consistency.



Bill Pressprich

Bill is a native of Saginaw, coming to Ann Arbor to study Economics at the University of Michigan in

1974. While at U-M, he got involved in the Charismatic Renewal and met his wife Cindy. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary last May. They have seven children and seven grandchildren with an eighth on the way.

Bill and Cindy are founding members of Christ the King. They have served on Worldwide Marriage Encounter and the Welcome Team. Bill has also served as Finance Council Chair, an Alpha table host, and current chair of the Parish Pastoral Council. In addition, he has served on the board of Huron Valley Catholic School and is a member of the Strategic Planning Committee for Fr. Gabriel Richard High School.

Bill retired about four years ago, serving most recently as President and CEO of ParishSOFT LLC, a church software company headquartered here in Ann Arbor. He currently coaches several parishes involved with the Divine Renovation Network. His Clifton StrengthsFinder top five strengths are Strategic, Futuristic, Responsibility, Achiever, and Arranger.



Reflections on serving on the SLT

by Sr. Dorcee Clarey, SGL

As you may have noticed in reading through this issue of *The Open Door*, I am no longer listed as a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Well, in case any of you are wondering, I didn't quit! As a result of some changes within the Servants of God's Love—including Sr. Sarah Burdick becoming our new superior—I have moved to Flint to head our mission house there. It became evident that it was time for me to roll off the SLT to make room for someone else, but I have to say I am really going to miss serving on the Team. Its members are some of the most dedicated people I know, truly seeking the best for our parish and wanting God's ways and God's will.

We have worked hard to learn to operate and serve as a team. For instance, we spent time learning more about each other's strengths and how our gifts complement each other's. John Hoving and I are strong in per-

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sonal relationship building, while some of the others are stronger in strategic skills. So, for example, when we talk as an SLT about building a relational culture at CTK, we all can respectfully bring our skills to bear on planning *and* pastoring.

We have also worked hard to build trust among us. If you are familiar with Patrick Lencioni*, he talks a lot about trust and healthy ways to handle conflict. The SLT has had

frank conversations about trust and conflict. We have had stormy moments, but have together weathered the storm, and by the grace of God, have come out stronger on the other side.

It has been quite a journey for all of us. We have made mistakes, but our motivation has always been for the good of the parish, that we might become all that God wants us to be for the sake of His Kingdom.

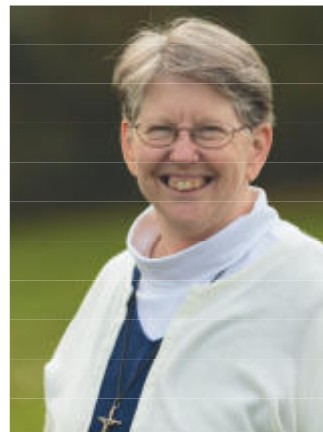
Thank you, Father Ed, Deacon Dan, Bill, John, Ken, and Rick, for the privilege of serving with you. May the Lord have His full way with us as a parish.

**Editor's note: Patrick Lencioni is a Catholic author and speaker who has written a number of books on organizational health.*

Thank you!



Sincere thanks to Finance Council Chair Rick Hendricks and Sr. Dorcee Clarey, SGL, for their past service on the Senior Leadership Team. Their willingness to invest the significant time and energy involved in this service helped make this new leadership initiative possible.



Lead with your strengths!

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their gifts and how they can better serve in ministry. It is an effective tool to increase team effectiveness; teams do best when they are made up of people with a diversity of strengths who complement each other.

Having people serve on our SLT with a diversity of gifts is one of several factors that helps our SLT respond to the Lord and carry out His mission. Obviously, prayer and discernment are primary! However, in my experience no one person has *all* the grace for discernment, the best ideas, or the leadership gifts necessary to lead a parish. We all have weaknesses and, worse, blind spots, so that we are sometimes not even aware of what we don't know and the impact of our behavior on others.

We may overcome these areas of weakness in an environment of trusted relationships within

Having people serve on our SLT with a diversity of gifts is one of several factors that helps our SLT respond to the Lord and carry out His mission.

a committed team. Building vulnerability-based trust is key, where we can admit when we don't know something, need help, make a mistake or sin, and ask forgiveness. Then, the team can become more than a collection; in fact, it can become the living body of Christ. Such a group can have healthy debate about ideas and issues and reach good and wise decisions.

The StrengthsFinder test takes 20-30 minutes and identifies the top five talents. Once identified, these talents can be used more intentionally.

For more information about strengths, I recommend the book *Living Your Strengths, Catholic Edition* by Albert Winseman, et al. It describes the 34 strengths, provides Biblical references, and suggests ministries based on particular strengths. It also includes a single-use ID code that gives you access to the StrengthFinder test. (Be sure to buy the book new so you can get the code.) There are trained coaches in the parish to help you use your strengths. To learn more, you can contact me at wpressprich@comcast.net.



Bill Pressprich is chair of the Parish Pastoral Council and a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Have questions? Get to Alpha!

Do you or someone you know have questions about God, faith, and life? Do you like good food, even better conversation, and talks that make you think? Then Alpha is for you!

Alpha is a series that seeks to answer the deepest questions core to our identity through meal-sharing, prepared talks, and open conversation. Everyone is welcome. No question is



too simple, no answer prepared. You're free to discuss as much (or little) as you like.

Two Alpha sessions will meet at Christ the King this fall:

- **All ages:** Sunday evenings, 6:30-8:30 pm, starting Sept. 15 (childcare provided, please pre-register)
- **Young adults:** Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:30 pm, starting Sept. 11

To learn more and to register, go to www.ctkcc.net/alpha. For more information, contact Jessica Dudek, jdudek@ctkcc.net.

Letting kids be kids in Flint

The Flint Summer Mission not only shared the Gospel with kids, but also gave them the opportunity to build summertime memories

by Sr. Rachel Benjamin, SGL

Fourth World poverty. That's the phrase that Dr. Dan Benz, who has been on many mission trips to Third World countries, coined to describe the poverty in Flint.

Truly, this poverty deserves its own categorization. It combines the material poverty of the Third World with the relationship poverty that Mother Teresa of Calcutta saw in the First World. And it's happening in our own diocese, in our own backyard.

Yet God is about a mighty work in Flint! This summer I joined with our Director of Youth Discipleship, John Hoving, and a motley crew of our teens to participate in God's work by providing the Flint Summer Mission (FSM).

The impetus for partnering with the A1:8 youth group began last winter when I left a ministry position to return to studies full-time for a Pastoral Ministry degree. Wanting to stay involved with teen ministry, I met with our superior, Sr. Dorcee Clarey, in February, who suggested that I connect with John Hoving. John and I discussed offering summertime events that would help teens live out what they learned and experienced on A1:8 retreats. I suggested service trips to Flint.

I spoke with Sr. Christina Frey, SGL, who serves on Flint's Eastside. In her weekly outreaches to the neighborhood, she was often asked, "Do you

have anything to offer our kids?" I knew teens love to work with small children, so we decided to offer something like a Vacation Bible School. However, calling it a VBS would result in certain expectations among both the participants and the volunteers, so we called it the "Flint Summer Mission."

I initially thought of this as something for the teens to primarily benefit from, but the Lord had bigger plans. From the beginning, it was one miracle after another.

We met with the Eastside Nazarene Mission, neighbors of St. Mary's where the FSM would be held. After establishing our desire to partner with them and be ecumenically sensitive, they offered to provide lunch on all four Mission Days for everyone!

Moments before that meeting, I had my first real culture shock. When Sr. Christina asked me to accompany her across the street to give an FSM flyer to an unknown family in the neighborhood, I figured it would give me a chance to meet some of the kiddos. I did not anticipate how quickly their (Fourth World) poverty would clash with my First World privilege. I was challenged and subsequently eager to break down the barriers that thwarted the establishing of relationship



Sr. Rachel with one of the families that won a "Gift of Experience": a day of family fun at Legoland!

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between those children and Jesus Christ present in His Church.

We set three goals for the FSM:

- 1) To spread the Gospel;
- 2) To build community in the neighborhood; and
- 3) To give kids summertime memories that should be part of every kid's development.

The next big plot twist became clear: this Mission would take the shape of whomever the Lord provided to volunteer on any given Mission Day. For example, we chose to have a preschool track because a teacher volunteered to handle it! Another time, a volunteer came who has a career in theater, so we had her lead improvisation exercises at the "Mystery Station."

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The final day we felt a breaking down of the walls of isolation and division among the families on the Eastside, between Ann Arbor and Flint, and ultimately, all of us from the Lord.



Sr. Rachel Benjamin made her Final Profession of Vows with the Servants of God's Love in September 2014. She is currently studying at Sacred Heart Major Seminary and serving intermittently in youth ministry. She is a lifelong member of Christ the King and is eager to assist in establishing stronger connections between Ann Arbor and Flint!

Letting kids be kids in Flint

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We held four Mission Days on Mondays in July for ages 4-13, each running from 10am to 2pm. Three age groups (not including the preschoolers) rotated through four "stations": "Imagination Station" with arts and crafts; "Salvation Station" in the Church; "Play Station," to run and play outside; and the "Mystery Station," which varied each week. We had 35 teen volunteers and 17 adults, mostly from CTK and Flint.

The last week in June we held volunteer training. Theresa Marshall, principal at St. John Vianney School in Flint, shared priceless insights:

Some of these kids are carrying trauma, but they don't know that because it's been their regular life. They're in some kind of pain, but they won't say to you, "Oh, I'm in pain." They're going to be sad or they're not going to want to do a lot or they may share something with you that you need to report.

Theresa also spoke about the damage that lead in the water does to the child's brain:

They don't have a filter that tells them "no." Your job will be, as one who's remembering this is the one Jesus loves, to say, "No, this is a choice we have to make to help you be safe."

At the start of the FSM and towards the end, a large team

of intercessors prayed a novena through Mary, Mother of Flint. That's what really shook things up spiritually; the blessings started pouring out. For instance, by the end of the first day of the first novena, two individuals offered to support us with their time, talent, and treasure. This generosity allowed us to give each child an age-appropriate Bible as a gift and to send a "grand prize winning" family every Mission Day to a "Gift of Experience" adventure.

The problem today is, we have forgotten we belong to each other.

Mother Teresa
of Calcutta

Ministry for the people of that neighborhood sometimes appears fruitless or inadequate. So I said to our Flint and Ann Arbor area volunteers, "Even if just 10 kids come, that gives us the chance to love on those 10 kids. That will have a lasting impact for many more!"

Overall, 75 Flint kids attended the FSM. Miraculously, each Mission Day had a one-to-one ratio, or very near it, of volunteers to Flint kiddos!

The level of hyperactivity that we saw (another effect of the lead exposure) was incredible. We were exhausted after the

first hour! I cried almost every Monday on my drive home over the extreme need these kids have, primarily for love.

As we approached the end, there was a sense that a "mega-bomb of grace" would drop on the last day. Not coincidentally, the spiritual warfare ramped way up, prompting the second novena.

Sure enough, the final day we felt a breaking down of the walls of isolation and division among the families on the Eastside, between Ann Arbor and Flint, and ultimately, all of us from the Lord. It was especially poignant when some of the Flint kiddos would not let go as they tearfully hugged the CTK teens goodbye.

As a follow-up to the FSM and as a community-building opportunity, St. Mary's held an ice cream social in mid-August. It is our hope to go up to Flint for monthly Saturday follow-ups, to play and reconnect with the kids, and to serve the families there. God-willing, there will be an FSM 2020.

Mother Teresa said, "The problem today is, we have forgotten we belong to each other." Each of us can be a manifestation of God's love and a carrier of His light. Let's readily give of ourselves and happily receive what others give to us!

Schedule of Major Events

- 9/2: Labor Day, Parish office closed
- 9/5: Adult choir potluck & first rehearsal for the year
- 9/7, 10/5: First Saturday Holy Hour
- 9/8: Sunday Confirmation & A1:8 classes begin
- 9/11: Alpha for Young Adults begins
Wednesday Grade 1-6 Religious Education classes begin
- 9/12: Catholic Biblical School of Michigan at CTK begins
- 9/13, 27: Upper Room
- 9/15: Family Fitbits
Sunday night Alpha begins
- 9/16: Walking with Purpose Bible Study begins
- 9/25: *Oremus* Discipleship Group begins

For more information about these and other events, check the bulletin or go to www.ctkcc.net.

MAJOR EVENTS—SEPTEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	Oct. 1	2	3	4	5

Save the Dates!

Olive Wood sale

Saturday afternoon, Oct. 26, to Sunday morning, Oct. 27 after the Masses
The Alfred Salsa family, originally from our sister parish in Bethlehem, returns with beautiful carved olive wood religious items. Do your Christmas shopping early while supporting the craftsmen in Bethlehem!



All Saints Day

Friday, Nov. 1
Holy Day of Obligation
Masses: 10am, 12 noon, 7:30pm

All Souls Day

Saturday, Nov. 2
Mass: 9am



Servants of God's Love

Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, Nov. 9, 9:30am-3pm
Once every two years we get the opportunity to support the Sisters by buying their wonderful homemade crafts and goodies, including Sr. Sarah's sticky buns! Proceeds support their apostolates.



Check future bulletins for more details about these and other great events!



Christ the King Catholic Church

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Coming in future issues...

- Parishioner and Ministry Profiles
- Stewardship

Look for this and more in future issues of

The Open Door

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We welcome your comments. Please send them to Theresa Hofer at thofer@ckcc.net.

The Open Door is the monthly newsletter of Christ the King Catholic Church.



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