



# The Open Door

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

MAY - JUNE 2021

VOLUME 4.5

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CTK parishioners wait to enter the church for the first time on Sunday, June 24, 2001. This June marks the 20th anniversary of the dedication of our church.

## Remember the marvels the Lord has done!

### *Pentecost kicks off a year of celebration for Christ the King*

by Theresa Hofer

*In May and June, we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of our parish and the 20th anniversary of the dedication of our church. In this issue of The Open Door, we look back at some of our history and forward to what might lie ahead for our parish family.—Editor*

**On Pentecost Sunday**, June 7, 1981, the Catholic Fellowship of the Word of God—which would eventually become Christ the King Catholic Church—held its first Mass for all Catholic members of the Word of God community. Pentecost is considered the anniversary of Christ the King.

The idea for the Catholic Fellowship of the Word of God was first raised in the mid-1970s. It was one of four fellowships in the Word of God, a charismatic, ecumenical Christian covenant community in the Ann Arbor area. The other three fellowships were for members from the Lutheran, Reformed, and "Free Church" traditions.

Peter Williamson was a leader in the Word of God and involved in those early conversations:

There was a sense that it would be good to have

some way for people to express their identity as Catholics—as well as their identity as Reformed Christians and Lutherans and Free Church—because we were in an ecumenical community and we wanted to avoid a "lowest common denominator" Christianity.

Peter also noted that community life was quite absorbing, so community members found it difficult to be involved in their local congregations.

"We exist to joyfully  
worship God and  
raise up Spirit-filled  
disciples." - *Mission  
Statement of Christ  
the King*

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## “Renew Your wonders in this our time...”

*God's answer to Pope St. John XXIII's prayer for a new Pentecost in the Church included Christ the King*

by Fr. Ed Fride

*The first way the King of Kings responded to his prayer and the prayer of the Catholic faithful was by inspiring the teachings at the Second Vatican Council.*



“**Renew Your wonders** in this our time as with a new Pentecost!” This is part of a prayer composed by Pope St. John XXIII. He ordered the prayer prayed in every Catholic institution in the world as a way of preparing for the Second Vatican Council.

The first way the King of Kings responded to his prayer and the prayer of the Catholic faithful was by inspiring the teachings at the Second Vatican Council. Pope St. John XXIII was elected by the Cardinals after repeated deadlocks in the Conclave called to elect a successor to the recently deceased Pope Pius XII. Pope St. John XXIII was elected as a compromise candidate since none of the principal contenders for the papacy could get the required two-thirds majority of votes of the Cardinals. He was elected and

thought by many to be an able administrator who would just hold the course for the time being—nothing fancy, but keeping the ship on course. Shortly after his election, he notified the Cardinals that he

intended to call a Council of the Church. When the Cardinals, aghast at the idea, told him he could not do such a thing, he reminded them that they had elected him Pope, and so, yes, he could.

**In calling the Council**, the Holy Father expressed his desire that two things would happen at the Council. First, that the Bishops of the world, gathered at the Council, would examine the current life of the Church in light of the Scriptures, to evaluate how the Church was living out the teachings of her Founder, the King of Kings. This was called *ressourcement*, a French word meaning “return to the sources.”

His other desire was that the teachings of the Church would be presented to the contemporary world in a way that would speak to them afresh, that the great gift of

wisdom, placed by the Lord Jesus in the heart of His holy Bride, would be made even more available to the current members of the Church and to the rest of the world, which was in such desperate need to hear the Gospel. This was called *aggiornamento*, an Italian word meaning “bringing it up to today.” The idea was not to change the teachings of the Church, but to present those teachings in a way more accessible to today’s men and women.

A major theme that developed at the Council, especially through the marvelous work of Cardinal Leo Suenens, one of the four moderators of the Council, was that the charisms promised by the Lord Jesus to His People needed to be more fully explored and developed in the Church. As the Council Fathers deliberated and put forth an initial draft on what was to become the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church, Cardinal Suenens rejected an approach that totally marginalizes the charisms: “The remarks made about the charisms of the Christian people are so few that one could get the impression that charisms are nothing more than a peripheral and unessential phenomenon in the life of the Church.” The Cardinal believed that the presence and the power of God the Holy Spirit in the life

This page and page 6: Detail of a photo of the Bernini Holy Spirit window in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. Photo by Dnlor\_01, available from Wikimedia Commons, commons.wikimedia.org. Used under Creative Commons license CC-BY-SA 3.0.

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## Remember the marvels the Lord has done!

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After lengthy discussions, including consultations with Rome, on January 6, 1979, Bp. Kenneth Povish approved the Statutes of the Catholic Fellowship of the Word of God as an association of the faithful for Catholic members of the Word of God community. A few weeks later on January 28th, Bp. Povish celebrated a special liturgy with all Catholics who were full (or “publicly committed”) Word of God members to launch the Catholic Fellowship.

Tony Redente, a Word of God leader who, for a time, had responsibility for the Catholic Fellowship, was at that liturgy. He said, “I remember the bishop quoting Luke 22: ‘I have eagerly desired to share this meal with you.’ It said something about his heart toward us.”

**For the next two years**, the Catholic Fellowship met just once a month with a small group of about 100 or so Catholics. Among the reasons for this was a concern for the other three fellowships, which were much smaller than the Catholic Fellowship. The Word of God community wanted them to be well-established before the Catholic Fellowship began full participation.

After consulting with the Word of God leaders, Bp. Povish announced that on Pentecost, June 7, 1981, he was establishing a special vicariate for the Catholic Fellowship of the Word of God. As members of a

vicariate, the 800-some Catholics in the Word of God were no longer under the jurisdiction of their parishes; instead, they were under the care of a priest-vicar appointed by the bishop. The first vicar of the Catholic Fellowship was Fr. Robert Lunsford. At the same time, the Catholic Fellowship was still a lay association, led by lay leaders who were proposed by the Catholic coordinators and accepted and appointed by Bp. Povish.

***“We have plowed new ground here in Washtenaw County.... May it be for God’s glory and for the good of His Church!”***

**Bishop Kenneth J. Povish  
Bishop of Lansing  
announcing the establishment  
of a special vicariate for the  
Catholic Fellowship of  
the Word of God**

In a letter to Washtenaw County Catholics, Bp. Povish wrote, “The purpose of this change is to bind the Fellowship more closely to the bishop and to the diocese while at the same time respecting its ecumenical aims and practices.” A little later, he continued, “My hope is that all Catholic members of The Word of God Community will be served by the vicariate soon...”

On Pentecost, June 7, 1981, the Catholic Fellowship of the Word



**Father (now Monsignor) Frank McGrath served as chaplain of the Catholic Fellowship of the Word of God, later called Christ the King Association, from 1981 to 1993.**

of God launched into full operation. Administrative matters were handled by the Word of God, but all sacramental activities—Sunday and Holy Day Masses, infant Baptisms, marriages, etc.—were handled by the Fellowship. Fr. Dave Tickerhoof, T.O.R., served as the first chaplain of the Catholic Fellowship, but in late 1981, his religious community moved him to a new assignment. At that time, Fr. (now Msgr.) Frank McGrath of the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT, became chaplain, a position he held until 1993.

In 1982, Gerry Rauch returned from five years of living in Belgium, where he had worked with Cardinal Leo J. Suenens supporting initiatives for the growth of the charismatic renewal worldwide. He was appointed as the coordinator to lead the Catholic Fellowship, a post he held until 1991.

**In the mid-1980s**, there was a growing desire on the part of many members to have a name that expressed more than the generic “Catholic Fellowship.”

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## Remember the marvels the Lord has done!

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Bishop Kenneth Povish joined us on Pentecost, May 18, 1986, to celebrate our fifth anniversary. On that date, he officially changed the name from "The Catholic Fellowship of the Word of God" to "Christ the King Association." Pictured here with Bishop Povish are (l-r) Father Frank McGrath, Tony Redente, Peter Williamson, Ralph Martin, and Gerry Rauch.



So a consultation was held to pick a name to propose to the bishop. Gerry, who led the process, said,

I thought we would probably have two stages of consultation, with the second stage coming after the first one had narrowed down the options. However, two stages were not needed, because the name was quickly obvious: "Christ the King" had a great number of individual suggestions by a wide margin.

Bp. Povish accepted the request and the proposed name. On the fifth anniversary of the fellowship, Pentecost, May 18, 1986, he officially changed the name to "Christ the King Association."

Throughout the 1980s, Christ the King attracted many visit-

ors from around the country and the world. Among them were a number of priests, including Fr. Ed Fride from the Diocese of Memphis, Tennessee, who visited from 1989 to 1990 and returned, with his bishop's permission, in 1991.

Looking back at that time, Gerry said:

Probably the biggest surprise was the great level of interest in what was happening here on the part of the worldwide Church and the Vatican. I doubt that there are very many places in the entire world that have not been touched by what started here and in the other places where the charismatic renewal first began. No one can take credit for all that; it has been a great work of God.

In 1990, the Word of God community underwent some internal changes. As a result, it divided into two communities: the Word of God and Washtenaw Covenant Community (now called the Word of Life).

In response, Bp. Povish removed Christ the King Association from under the direction of the leaders of the Word of God, while maintaining the requirement that members belong to one of the two charismatic covenant communities. On the Solemnity of Christ the King, November 24, 1991, he initiated the process of changing its status to a personal parish, directing, however, that Christ the King should be called, "Christ the King Catholic Center."

In November 1992, Fr. Frank was recalled to his home diocese, departing in February 1993. In January 1993, Bp. Povish disestablished the vicariate and appointed Fr. Ed Fride as administrator of Christ the King. A few months later, in response to a request from Fr. Ed and the Parish Pastoral Council, Bp. Povish removed the membership restriction and opened Christ the King to people who did not belong to one of the covenant communities.

In January 1996, following the retirement of Bp. Povish, Bp. Carl F. Mengeling became Bishop of Lansing. He completed the process of establishing Christ

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# Remember the marvels the Lord has done!

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the King as a personal parish based on the charismatic spirituality of its members. On April 2, 1997, Bp. Mengeling canonically established Christ the King with full parish status and, on November 16, 1997, installed Fr. Ed as the first Pastor.

**When he was first appointed** as administrator of Christ the King, Fr. Ed took a personal pilgrimage to Jerusalem to pray for direction in his new role. While there, he clearly sensed the Lord saying to him, "Give My People a home." As he prayed about that, Fr. Ed became convinced that the Lord wanted Christ the King to have both a spiritual home in His Body, the Church, and a physical home, a permanent structure in which to worship Him. Thus began the massive effort that culminated in the dedication of our church on June 24, 2001.

Tony Redente admitted that the church was a surprise for him.

I personally didn't feel a need for it. The Holy Spirit was so tangibly present wherever we

were for Mass. But I realize now, as the Lord told Isaiah, that "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways." (Is. 55:8). Our church not only enhances our worship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but also inspires us to give ourselves more fully to God.

In a similar vein, Peter Williamson said,

Because we had always been a pilgrim parish, I didn't know how important it would be to have a church building. My Protestant mother who was recently there for an event said, "Wow, this is really a beautiful church," and that surprised me because she comes from a Reformed tradition where you wouldn't expect it. Other people I've brought there have found the beauty of the church striking and helpful.

From the earliest planning stages of the new church, parishioners expressed a strong

desire for a Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. That Chapel was incorporated into the plans and officially opened in October 2001.

As our need for space continued to grow, the Lord continued to provide. In 2004, the Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, moved out of their school next to our church, and through the generosity of our parishioners, we were able to purchase the building as our Parish Center.

**As we remember** the marvels the Lord has done in the past, we look to the future with hope, knowing that "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever." May we forever proclaim that Jesus Christ is our King!

*Special thanks to Phil Tiewes of the Word of God Community, who provided valuable help in identifying some of the early dates in our history.*

*"I doubt that there are very many places in the entire world that have not been touched by what started here and in the other places where the charismatic renewal first began. No one can take credit for all that; it has been a great work of God."*

Gerry Rauch

## What is a personal parish?

*As a general rule a parish is to be territorial, that is, it embraces all the Christian faithful within a certain territory; whenever it is judged useful, however, personal parishes are to be established based upon rite, language, the nationality of the Christian faithful within some territory or even upon some other determining factor.*

(Canon 518)<sup>1</sup>

The identity of Christ the King is taken from the charismatic spirituality of our people. Most of our current members have been active members in the Charismatic Renewal, including some who were instrumental in helping to share this current movement of the Holy Spirit with Catholics and other Christians around the world.

Other examples of personal parishes in the Diocese of Lansing include St. Mary Student Parish in Ann Arbor, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Flint, and St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Cristo Rey in Lansing.

<sup>1</sup> *Code of Canon Law*, Latin-English edition, (Washington, DC: Canon Law Society of America, 1983), 197.



Theresa Hofer is Editor of *The Open Door*.

*Just a few years after the conclusion of the Council, the King of Kings answered Pope St. John XXIII's prayer in a second way with the outpouring of the Spirit as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal began in 1967.*



Fr. Ed Fride is Pastor of Christ the King.

## "Renew Your wonders in this our time..."

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of the Catholic faithful was a key dimension that needed to be brought to the fore in terms of emphasis. The rest of the Council Fathers agreed, and a much greater emphasis was placed on the charisms in various documents of the Council.

This move by the Council Fathers was looked at as so significant that Pope St. John Paul the Great subsequently referred to it as the Church rediscovering her charismatic identity:

**Whenever the Spirit intervenes, He leaves people astonished. He brings about events of amazing newness; He radically changes persons and history. This was the unforgettable experience of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council during which, under the guidance of the same Spirit, the Church rediscovered the charismatic dimension as one of her constitutive elements.<sup>1</sup>**

This focus on the rediscovered charisms in the life of the faithful had profound effects on the Church. For example, the Sacrament of Confirmation's role was now seen more in terms of empowering its recipients to receive those charisms, charisms that were first released in the Church on that initial Pentecost: "It is evident from



its celebration that the effect of the Sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, ¶1302).

**Just a few years** after the conclusion of the Council, the King of Kings answered Pope St. John XXIII's prayer in a second way with the outpouring of the Spirit as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal began in 1967. Being able to build on the solid teaching of the Council concerning the rediscovered charismatic dimension of the Church, new structures were made available to facilitate the expression of that charismatic dimension, which included the development of charismatic Catholic parishes, which would have a special role to express and truly live out that charismatic dimension.

Bishop Kenneth Povish, the former bishop of Lansing, who served as chair of the American Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Catholic Charismatic

Renewal, was inspired to have within his own diocese such a parish. With the charismatic renewal's presence in Lansing and Ann Arbor being so key to the renewal, facilitating the creation of a parish to serve the renewal and give expression to that charismatic rediscovery was one of his dreams. He realized that dream 40 years ago when he established what was eventually to become Christ the King Catholic Church.

That dream continues, as was particularly demonstrated on April 29th when Bishop Boyea, during a great celebration in which those charisms were expressively present, confirmed a number of the parish's young men and women, thus continuing the vital work of the charismatic rediscovery which has so profoundly affected the Church in our time. This is one of the many ways in which Christ the King is attempting to live up to its defining charism as a charismatic parish in fidelity to the call the Lord Jesus has placed on our lives here. Truly, He is renewing His wonders in this our time, as with a new Pentecost!

<sup>1</sup> Pope John Paul II, Speech for the World Congress of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities, May 30, 1998. Available at [http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/speeches/1998/may/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_spe\\_19980530\\_riflessioni.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/speeches/1998/may/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_19980530_riflessioni.html).



# On the road with a pilgrim people

*Janet Holtz remembers parish life before we had our own church*

Janet Holtz became Christ the King's Administrator in 1990 and served in a variety of roles until her retirement in 2005. We asked her to share some of her memories of the years leading up to the dedication of our church.

**For those who may not know you, please tell us a little about yourself.**

I was born and raised in Ypsilanti. In 1964, I married and moved to Ann Arbor. I have three grown children and six grandchildren. I was a member of the Word of God Community, from which came Christ the King Parish.

**You were on staff at Christ the King during the years before and immediately after the building of the church. Please describe your role.**

I was hired to replace the outgoing administrator. My role at that time included everything except Religious Education. I did the bookkeeping, scheduled facilities for us to hold Mass in every weekend, trained and scheduled servers for the various roles within the Mass, made available and maintained all Mass accoutrements, and ordered supplies.

**In the years before we had a church building, what was involved in making Mass happen each Sunday?**

Each weekend rotating volunteer teams of about six people loaded all the items needed to make Mass happen into the van. I delivered these items to the facility where another team would unload things and set them up for the Masses. When

the second Mass ended, the items were reloaded into the van by yet another team.

**How many volunteers did it require to set up and take down Mass each week?**

About 25-30. The Triduum required hundreds.

**In how many different places did we celebrate Mass? What were some of them?**

We met for Mass in a variety of school gyms and auditoriums, including, but not limited to, Towsley Auditorium at Washtenaw Community College; Pease Auditorium at Eastern Michigan University; Roosevelt High School; Old Ypsi High School; New Ypsi High; Slauson, Mack, and Tappan schools in Ann Arbor; several different places inside Domino Farms; Spiritus Sanctus Academy (both Ann Arbor facilities); and the EMU Convocation Center.

**At first, we were thinking of buying an existing church building. Do you remember at what point we switched to planning to build?**

We looked at a lot of available churches but none of them suited all of our needs. About six months of looking was all it took to begin thinking about building

**What input did you give to the planning of the Church?**

I and the rest of the Liturgical team were asked what our needs were. Then Fr. Ed organized the appropriate committees to plan these spaces.



Janet Holtz (shown here doing one of her favorite things, holding a baby 😊) worked at Christ the King from 1990 to 2005. Her tireless work kept our liturgies going, especially in the years before our church was built and dedicated.

**What was your role in the planning of the dedication liturgy?**

The Liturgical team studied various documents about dedications that had taken place in the diocese. We also watched the dedication ceremony of Mother Angelica's church [the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Alabama] over and over and over again, taking copious notes, and then meeting after each watching to discuss what might work for us and how to make it work.

**What is your favorite memory of the dedication of the church?**

My favorite memory is when the Blessed Sacrament was placed in the Tabernacle for the first time. When the Sanctuary Lamp was lit, there was a spontaneous and unexpected response from the congregation of cheers and applause.

**Thanks, Janet, for sharing your memories and for all the ways that you served us so many years at Christ the King!**

*My favorite memory of the dedication of the church is when the Blessed Sacrament was placed in the Tabernacle for the first time. When the Sanctuary Lamp was lit, there was a spontaneous and unexpected response from the congregation of cheers and applause.*

## Reflections on our 40th anniversary

*What does our past have to do with where we are and where we're going?*

by Bill Pressprich

*We who have met  
Jesus know Him as  
the sure "way,  
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We must hold fast  
to our faith;  
the Church  
remains a beacon  
of light and hope  
to the world.*



**When I was discussing** the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christ the King with friends, I asked, "What does our past have to do with where we are and where we're going?" I did not realize it, but I had just signed up to write this article! So, here are my humble reflections on our anniversary and what it means for us today and in the future.

Christ the King has provided a great environment in which our personal domestic church could flourish. Our children were baptized at CTK, three of them were married here, and our daughter Sr. Laura made her final profession with the Servants of God's Love here. Fr. Ed and all of you have been such a blessing to Cindy, me, and our children, and we are eternally grateful!

### **Alive in the Holy Spirit**

Our parish sprang from the Catholic charismatic renewal,

which began at a retreat of students at Duquesne University in 1967. They had been inspired by *The Cross and the Switchblade*, in which David Wilkerson recounts the Lord working miraculously to heal brokenness and transform lives in his work with gangs and drug addicts. As these students prayed, the Holy Spirit came upon them and they began to speak in tongues. One of our parishioners, Dave Mangan, was there.

We continue to see the Holy Spirit working among us. That is why Bishop Povish established us in the first place. The Baptism in the Spirit kindles the graces bestowed on us in Baptism and Confirmation. Come, Holy Spirit!

### **Community**

In 1967, four young Catholics began hosting a prayer meeting in Ann Arbor, which quickly grew to over 1,000 people. This group came to be known as

The Word of God, an ecumenical community from which grew Christ the King. (See the lead article for details.) Members of the community experienced deep bonds modeled after the fellowship (*koinonia*) found in the Acts of the Apostles. In practice, this meant that people were there for each other as brothers and sisters in the Lord. They shared their lives deeply, including through fellowship groups.

Fellowship and support are important for every Christian. If you don't already belong to a fellowship group, please consider seeking one out.

### **Mission**

A recent Gallup poll indicated that religious membership had fallen to just 47% of those surveyed, continuing a steep downward trend from 70% in 1999. This decline has been accompanied by an erosion of a Christian worldview and of support of that worldview by institutions. This has dramatically impacted daily life, especially marriage and family. We at CTK are not immune to these drastic changes.

In response, we are reminded that the Church exists for the sake of mission, as has been asserted continuously by the popes for the last 50 years. It's not so much that the Church

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[www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com).



# Reflections on our 40th anniversary

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of Christ has a mission, as that the mission of Jesus Christ has a Church. Jesus describes our Great Commission: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)

## Clarity

When our mission is expressed clearly, it helps to galvanize our thinking and action. It is like rowing a boat together in the same direction.

Responding to Jesus's call, we define our parish's mission as:

**Christ the King exists to joyfully worship God and raise up Spirit-filled disciples.**

To make our mission a reality, we focus on four core strategies. They are not intended to be all-encompassing but to support all areas of our life. They are:

1. **Cultivate our worship experience.**
2. **Form disciples.** Our Discipleship Pathway provides a way for us as disciples to take our next steps as we Worship, Grow, Encounter, and Serve.
3. **Foster and integrate the Charismatic life.**
4. **Foster a culture of evangelization, especially through Alpha.** We build a welcoming environment and form authentic, loving relationships with the people in our lives. We invite people to come and see and accompany them on their journey. I love Alpha! It is a fun, safe place for people to encounter the Lord and the

Holy Spirit, and it forms loving, lasting relationships among the participants.

## How are we doing?

It may be easy to get frustrated or discouraged, but overall our parish is actually doing well! How do we know? Catholics in our diocese took the Discipleship Maker survey in February 2020. (We got the results right after the pandemic started, which is why you haven't heard about it. We will publicize it shortly.) Here are just two of the key findings:

- The percentage of parishioners who describe themselves as having a personal relationship with Jesus and growing as His disciple was over 94%. This is *remarkable*! Our parish ranked in the top three of over 1,000 parishes in the country!
- The percentage of parishioners who would recommend our parish to a friend was extremely high.

We also face many challenges. Our society is suffering a "crisis of meaning," described by Pope St. John Paul II as leading to "skepticism, indifference or to various forms of nihilism." We are also beset by divisions, both within and outside the Church.

Yet, we who have met Jesus know Him as the sure "way, truth, and life." We must hold fast to our faith; the Church remains a beacon of light and

hope to the world. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul asks us to remain diligent and not allow divisions among us:

I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose. (1 Cor. 1:10)

## Where are we going?

Our vision statement describes our aspirations:

**We are a vibrant faith community, grounded in Scripture and the sacraments, where all experience belonging. We live as radical, Spirit-filled disciples who share the love of Christ.**

This is so exciting! I believe it reflects God's call to us here and now. It is aspirational, as we are not there yet, but it is where we can arrive through God's grace. It will require all of us, as the Body of Christ, to encourage and admonish each other in love and work together to bring about God's kingdom.

When should we start? "Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2) It starts with Jesus. How do I choose to respond to God's call today and every day?

Our future is directed toward Heaven, and for that we are eternally grateful! Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

*Our vision statement is aspirational, as we are not there yet, but it is where we can arrive through God's grace.*



Bill Pressprich is chair of the Parish Pastoral Council and a member of the Senior Leadership Team. He and his wife Cindy are founding members of Christ the King.

*We sincerely appreciate the love, prayers, and sacrifice of the people of Christ the King. Even though we did not meet our \$4 million campaign goal, you pledged a total of \$2.69 million, of which we have collected \$1.95 million to date.*

From the Senior Leadership Team

## Update on the Witness to Hope campaign

Bishop Boyea launched the first-ever diocesan-wide campaign, "Witness to Hope," in 2016. The goal was to provide funds for parishes and several diocesan-wide needs including:

- **Forming youth and families**, including endowing a fund to provide financial aid for students to attend Catholic schools
- **Evangelizing and living our faith**
- **Caring for our priests**
- **Supporting our shared ministry**

The campaign provided an opportunity for us to be missionaries and witnesses to Christ and His saving message. The people of God in our diocese responded generously to this call. As of June 30, 2020, they had pledged \$81 million, of which \$58 million had been received and distributed, with the rest remaining in pledges not yet collected.

**At Christ the King**, we discerned and added a capital campaign to the regular Witness to Hope campaign. Besides the Witness to Hope goals, we hoped to fund three projects:

- **Finishing the lower level of our church**
- **Expanding the narthex**
- **Adding to our parking lot**

The preliminary cost estimate for these projects was about

\$3 million. When added to the regular Witness to Hope campaign, this led to an overall campaign goal of \$4 million.

You responded generously to this call, and we sincerely appreciate the love, prayers, and sacrifice of the people of Christ the King. Even though we did not meet our \$4 million campaign goal, you pledged a total of \$2.69 million, of which we



*The Catholic Diocese of Lansing*

have collected \$1.95 million to date. We have used these funds to completely fulfill our portion of the diocesan-wide goal (\$924,000), leaving slightly more than \$1 million available. The remaining pledges to be collected over the next two years are about \$705,000, which will be used entirely to fund the CTK projects. While some of the remaining pledges may not be collected due to changes in personal circumstances, in the end we expect to have up to \$1.7 million to fund our projects.

**The Facilities Commission**, led by Dcn. Larry Randolph, worked diligently with parish groups to gather needs, which led to the identification of the three projects and the initial estimate of \$3 million. Once the campaign was launched, the

Commission worked with architects on preliminary designs and updated the cost estimates. This process is continuing.

Current findings are that the parking lot needs may not be as extensive as originally thought. However, the cost for finishing the lower level and expanding the narthex, which was redesigned, would be more than our original estimates.

The Commission will be working to prepare options for Fr Ed and the Senior Leadership Team to consider, such as reducing the scope of the projects to fit the funds available, preparing an updated proposal requesting additional funding, or some other alternative. We will consult with you, our parishioners, on this decision.

**Again, we so appreciate** your generosity and the passion you share for the Lord, His Kingdom, and our parish. If you have questions or comments, please send them to Sharon Messiter ([smessiter@ctkcc.net](mailto:smessiter@ctkcc.net)). She will direct them to the proper person for response. May God bless you!

Fr. Ed Fride, Ken Bogan, Dcn. Dan Foley, John Hoving, Sharon Messiter, and Bill Pressprich

Senior Leadership Team,  
Christ the King Catholic Church



## Please Note:

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this schedule is subject to change.  
Please check our website, [ctkcc.net](http://ctkcc.net), for the latest information.

## Schedule of Major Events

For the Mass schedule, check the bulletin or  
go to [ctkcc.net/Mass-times](http://ctkcc.net/Mass-times)

- 4/29: Confirmation Mass
- 5/1: First Holy Communion Masses
- 5/9: Mother's Day
- 5/11: Baccalaureate Mass
- 5/14, 21, 6/11, 25: Upper Room
- 5/14-22: Pentecost novena
- 5/16: Ascension
- 5/22: Pentecost Vigil
- 5/23: Pentecost—40th anniversary of Christ the King Sunday obligation restored
- 5/30: Trinity Sunday
- 5/31: Memorial Day; offices closed
- 6/3: Bible Study starts, Letters of St. Paul
- 6/5: Garden of Hope work day
- 6/6: Corpus Christi
- 6/13-19: Pine Hills Boys Camp
- 6/20: Father's Day
- 6/20-25: Pine Hills Girls Camp
- 6/24: 20th anniversary of the dedication of the church
- 6/28-7/2: Vacation Bible School

For more information about these and other events, check the bulletin or go to [www.ctkcc.net](http://www.ctkcc.net).

MAJOR EVENTS  
MAY-JUNE 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Apr. 25	26	27	28	29	30	May 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	31	June 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	July 1	2	3

## Save the Dates!

## 2021 CTK Men's Retreat

Friday-Sunday, Aug. 13-15

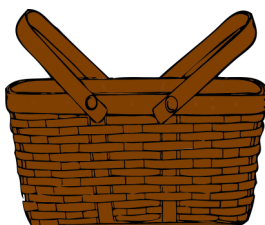
Men, plan to join your brothers for this great retreat led by Peter Herbeck, Bart Schuchts, Bishop Scott McCaig, and Pete Burak. Details coming soon.



## All-Parish Picnic

Sunday afternoon, Aug. 15

After the Men's Retreat, let's all get together for some food and fun! More details closer to the date.



## Parish Card &amp; Game Night

Saturday, Sept. 18, 7-9pm

Mark your calendars now for an evening of fun and fellowship!



Check future bulletins and our website, [ctkcc.net](http://ctkcc.net), for more details about these great events!



## Christ the King Catholic Church

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### Coming in future issues...

- Parishioner profiles
- Adoration testimonies
- More celebrations!

Look for this and more in future issues of

## The Open Door

### Parish Staff

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We welcome your comments. Please send them to Theresa Hofer at [thofer@ctkcc.net](mailto:thofer@ctkcc.net).

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

*How lovely is Your dwelling place, Lord, God of Hosts.  
My soul is longing and yearning,  
is yearning for the  
courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my soul  
ring out their joy  
to God, the living God.*

Psalm 84:1-2