



The Open Door

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

JULY - AUGUST 2021

VOLUME 4.6

Called to spread the Good News	2
New podcast provides evangelization tips	3
Thomas Strode: "Not all those who wander are lost"	4
Shawn and Destiny Sands: Converted by the Eucharist in the Mass	5
John Kazanjian: Being true to who I had become	7
Results from the Disciple Maker Index	9
Calendar Save the Dates!	11

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



Learning to bring the Gospel to others

The Lord wants to pour His Spirit upon us and give us the words that others can hear

By Jessica Dudek

The first time I led someone to Jesus, it was an accident. I was in college sitting in the student cafeteria working on a paper when I spotted my friend Ben walking in. I knew that if he saw me, he would sit down and start talking, and I had work to do. So I prayed and asked the Lord for Ben to simply not see me. But as the final words of my prayer were lifted up to Heaven, Ben was pulling up a chair at my table.

Immediately, I mentioned that I was in the middle of writing a paper, but Ben

replied that he was also writing a paper comparing different religions. At this point, I couldn't resist the conversation, and we began to discuss our spiritualities.

As it turned out, Ben was raised Jehovah's Witness and was at a crossroads in his faith, not sure of what he believed. Then, without any preparation on my part, I began to speak about my relationship with Jesus, and the Holy Spirit descended on our little table in the student cafeteria. Eloquent words flew out of my mouth about

the grace of God and what it means to know Christ. Before I knew it, Ben was struck to the heart and told me that what I just described was what he was looking for. He began attending a Bible study, gave His life to Jesus, and started leading in ministry even before I did. (I also got an "A" on my paper, which was a nice little bonus on top of someone receiving eternal life. ☺)

In the years that followed, I hoped for that same outpouring of grace to accom-

Continued on page 3

Called to spread the Good News

If we have been confirmed, we should have a desire to spread the Gospel. Why doesn't that seem to happen in most cases?

by Fr. Ed Fride

During these obviously troubled times in which so many people are living in doubt and fear, the message of faith and hope can be particularly welcome.



More than a half-century ago, the Lord Jesus reignited the fire of the Spirit in the heart of His Church. It began with a small group of college students on a retreat at a center called The Ark and The Dove. They experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit and helped to light the fire that has spread to a hundred million Roman Catholics.

One of the first fruits of the reception of the Spirit was a desire to share their faith with others—to let other people know that the Lord Jesus was real and had a burning desire for a personal relationship with them. This fruit duplicated, not surprisingly, the results of that first Pentecost in 33 AD. The apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, immediately began to let people know about the Lord Jesus. Since the King of Kings had informed the disciples that they would not truly be His witnesses until they were clothed with power from on High, it is

really no surprise that when they received that power, witnessing to His Presence was what they immediately set out to do.

The Church teaches us in the *Catechism* that one of the results of the Sacrament of Confirmation is to bring about that Pentecost in our lives. So it follows that, if we have been confirmed, we too should have a desire to spread the Gospel to others.

Why doesn't that seem to happen in most cases? There are several reasons: sometimes poor or no evangelization, poor or no catechesis, no witness in the lives of the confirmands of Catholics actually doing that evangelizing, no directions or help from the pulpit to do so, etc. But in some cases, especially when the graces of the Sacrament of Confirmation are unleashed by the experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you see folks who are burning with a desire to share the Good News with others.

Ever since the Second Vatican Council's constant call, repeated in so many of its documents, to spread the Good News, Catholics have become more and more the evangelists that the Lord Jesus has always called them to be. Pope St. Paul VI's landmark exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* reminded the whole Church that this is not just a call for the religious or clergy or professional missionaries, but this is a call on the lives of all the Baptized!

One of the major tasks for parishes in this time is to become evangelizing communities in which each member is assisted in living out that Baptismal vocation of evangelization. During these obviously troubled times in which so many people are living in doubt and fear, the message of faith and hope can be particularly welcome!

Even though many folks don't feel "theologically competent" to share the Gospel, it doesn't take a Ph.D. in theology to tell someone, "Jesus loves you!" Nor is a requirement living a flawless, perfect life. The apostles were clearly flawed, as all of us are, yet they laid down their lives to let people know that there is a Savior Who loves to save! Let's learn from their example and do our part to build the Kingdom by sharing the Good News: Jesus Christ is Lord!



Fr. Ed Fride is Pastor of Christ the King.

Front page:
Image by Arrowhead Coffee.
This page:
Image by Pexels
Both from Pixabay,
www.pixabay.com.

Learning to bring the Gospel to others

Continued from page 1

pany every spiritual conversation I had. But in reality, I found myself hitting walls. I was stumped by my friends' lack of spiritual interest and discouraged by those who lived double lives. Truly, I was at a loss for how to reach them.

This wasn't because I didn't care, and it certainly wasn't because I was struggling in my own faith or not relying enough on the Holy Spirit. Rather, the Holy Spirit was stretching me to be a vessel in another way. The Lord was inviting me to become a fine-tuned evangelist. I needed to come to understand the needs of the unconverted and let my tongue be trained to speak the Gospel in a way they could understand.

The Holy Spirit moved in a moment to give me words to speak to Ben that day in the cafeteria. But other times, the Holy Spirit moved over seasons to give me deeper insight into the mystery of the faith and transferable evangelistic skills.

Learning to bring the Gospel to others has brought me closer to Jesus. This formation called me into humility and an even deeper reliance on the Holy Spirit. That surrender has brought me closer to the heart of my beloved Lord.

In our walks with the Lord, He wants to pour out His Spirit upon us and give us the words that others can hear. He desires ever-growing intimacy with us and for that closeness to bear fruit in the world. Let's consider where and how God could be calling you into greater intimacy with Him and greater strength in evangelization.

Alpha

This past year we kept Alpha going both online and in-person and saw the Holy Spirit pour out His love and grace. We found community in the midst of lockdowns and isolations and felt the renewal of hope spark in our hearts. We're excited now to grow both our online and in-person groups and would love to see you there!

Alpha is a place for you to be known and received by others

and to have your faith in Jesus blessed. Alpha is ideal for folks with unmet spiritual questions, confusion, or doubt about God, or who might not identify as Christian at all. At Alpha, all are welcome. You are invited and encouraged to consider who in your life might also need this gift.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

We have more than doubled our RCIA catechist team in preparation for the coming season and are even starting RCIA for some people over the summer. Now is the time to consider if anyone in your world is ready to explore Catholicism.

It's important to note that participating in RCIA is not a commitment to becoming Catholic, but rather a place of learning. RCIA focuses on the deep discipleship of the participant. We encourage those who don't have a foundation of Christian faith to join Alpha as their first step of spiritual growth.

Stepping Up & Stepping Out

Perhaps you're wondering how you would even know where a

I found myself hitting walls. I was stumped by my friends' lack of spiritual interest and discouraged by those who lived double lives. ... I needed to come to understand the needs of the unconverted and let my tongue be trained to speak the Gospel in a way they could understand.

Continued on page 6

New podcast provides evangelization tips



Our Director of Evangelization, Jessica Dudek, has started a

new podcast called, *The Everyday Evangelist*. It's full of practical tips for sharing the Good News with those who need to hear it, especially in these difficult times.

Episodes thus far have covered such topics as the steps of the conversion journey, how to navigate hostility, and finding joy in hard times. Special guests have included CTK's Directors of Adult Discipleship, Aimée Godfrey, and Youth Discipleship, John Hoving, as well as Doug

Schaupp, National Director of Evangelism for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and co-author of the book, *I Once Was Lost*.

To check out the podcast, go to ctkcc.libsyn.com and search for "Everyday."

Thomas Strode

“Not all those who wander are lost”



Please share with us some of your background.

I grew up in Portland, Oregon in a musical family. I started taking organ lessons at age 6½; I graduated from Portland State with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1973.

My organ teacher knew Marilyn Mason, Professor of Organ at the University of Michigan School of Music, and arranged for me to play for her. She invited me to do graduate work at U of M, so I moved to Ann Arbor in 1973. I earned my Master's degree in organ performance in 1975 and completed my doctorate in 1981.

What about your spiritual background?

It's been a really long journey spiritually. A large part of my spiritual journey has to do with the jobs I had.

My family was Presbyterian, but the year before moving to Ann Arbor, I took a position as organist at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Portland. That was revelatory to me: the liturgy, the vestments, etc. I became

quite enamored of the Episcopal Church liturgy. So when I moved to Ann Arbor, I joined St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1974.

Those were the very early days of the Word of God Charismatic Community. Through the Episcopal student ministry, I got connected with Henry and Abbie Root and some other members of the Word of God. I met my wife, Karen, through the Word of God music ministry.

I attended the Wednesday 7am Eucharist at St. Andrew's and volunteered to play for that service. When the music director died suddenly, I was asked to fill in until they found a new director. They ended up offering the position to me. I was the Director of Music at St. Andrew's for many years and then worked as Director of Music at St. Paul Lutheran Church for 19 years until my retirement.

How did you decide to become Catholic?

Once I retired, I was free to do some heavy-duty prayer about what God wanted. I also did a lot of reading. A few of the books that I found particularly helpful were:

- Patrick Madrid's *Surprised by Truth*, volumes one and two, which had the testimonies of a number of Catholic converts, including Al Kresta.

- *Behold Your Mother* by Tim Staples, which really cleared up a lot of misconceptions that I had about Mary.
- Steve Ray's *Crossing the Tiber* really helped explain a lot of things and clear up other misconceptions.

As I read these and other works, I felt like the Lord was leading me. The other thing that's been very helpful: years ago, Karen and I started praying together using *Magnificat*. Although being able to worship with Karen was important, it wasn't the main thing in making my decision. When I was worshipping at Mass, I felt that the Lord made it clear that this is where He wanted me to be.

What was the reaction of your family and friends to your decision?

My brother, who's music director at a small Presbyterian church in Portland, was good with it. Almost all my friends have been supportive.

Now that you have been Catholic for several months, what are your reflections? Has anything surprised you?

Experiencing Christ in the Eucharist is a *huge* difference. The Missouri Synod Lutheran Church believes in consubstantiation (vs. the Catholic belief in transubstantiation), but there's a big difference. It's night and day.

Continued on page 6

Thomas Strode is a professional organist who spent most of his career serving as the Director of Music at two area churches.

He also founded and for many years directed the Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Following his retirement, after “heavy-duty prayer” about what God wanted, he entered the Catholic Church in February. He and his wife, Karen, have one son.

Although being able to worship with Karen was important, it wasn't the main thing in making my decision. When I was worshipping at Mass, I felt that the Lord made it clear that this is where He wanted me to be.

Shawn and Destiny Sands

Converted by the Eucharist in the Mass

Shawn and Destiny Sands entered the Catholic Church at Christ the King on the Solemnity of Christ the King last November. Destiny recently shared with us some of their journey.

Please describe your background and faith experience.

Shawn was raised in a non-denominational Church by his grandparents, who were strong Christians. My parents lean agnostic, so I wasn't raised in a church. Shawn and I started dating in high school. He would try to tell me about God, but I really wasn't interested.

How did you first get interested in Catholicism?

Shawn and I went on a trip to the zoo with his cousin's family. They started talking about Confirmation, and I was interested in learning more. His cousin invited me to the Walking in Purpose Bible Study at Christ the King and then to the October 2019 Diocese of Lansing Women's Conference.

What really got to me at the conference was the Mass. My experience at Protestant churches was that it was just a guy talking. But when I was before the Eucharist, something stirred in my heart. I wanted to learn more, to go again. When I did, I felt that I couldn't live without it. So the Eucharist in the Mass pretty much converted me.

Shawn had been praying for me to turn to God. When I took him to Mass, he fell in love with the Eucharist, too.

What was your experience of going through Alpha and RCIA?

We went through Alpha in the

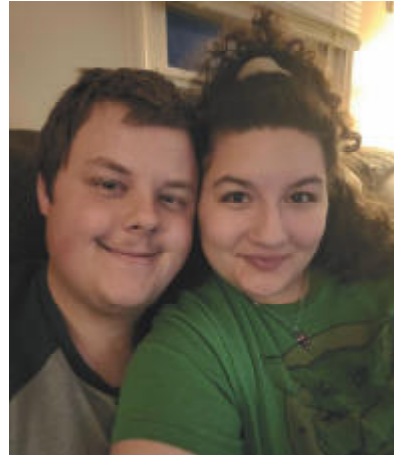
Winter of 2020. COVID hit in the middle of it, so we had to move from in-person to online. The content of Alpha was more of a review for me because I was going through the Bible study, but the connection with people was good, and I met a good friend through it.

Dcn. Larry was our RCIA catechist. I'm so grateful for his teaching. The videos were only 30 to 40 minutes long, but he spent tons of additional time answering our questions and personalizing it. I can't give him enough credit for all the work he's done with us. If it weren't for the work of the Holy Spirit in him, I'm not sure we'd be Catholic today.

For some people, there comes a point in their discernment about becoming Catholic when they get "cold feet." Did that happen to either of you?

Yes, just before Easter in 2020 I had a sudden falling out with a good friend who's a Christian. It was very painful, in part because I didn't really understand what was going on. What made it worse was, this was right when the pandemic hit: there was no Mass, no Adoration, no contact with other people. It was so isolating.

During April and May, I felt very isolated and depressed. I wondered, if this is what Christians are like, do I really want to become one? I didn't watch Mass online, stopped praying the Rosary, stopped reading the



Bible. It was hard for Shawn to watch me going through that.

Then in early June, Dcn. Larry called us about RCIA, and we started going through it with him. We also started marriage prep, and our marriage prep couple, Mary Jo and Del Paquin, really helped a lot.

About a month before entering the Church, I decided I had to move on. When I got baptized, about 90 percent of the hurt went away. Now, I'm kind of glad that the falling out happened because I realize that my dependence on this close friend wasn't healthy. The sudden falling out taught me to lean on Jesus.

What was the reaction of your family and friends to your decision to become Catholic?

Shawn's grandparents were really happy. When Shawn got baptized, his grandma gave him money to buy a suit. I gave her a Miraculous Medal, which she wore until just before she died in April 2021.

Shawn and Destiny Sands were married at Christ the King in February after entering the Church in November 2020. They were originally drawn to the Church by the Eucharist, but they've both found many more things in the Church to love.

When I was before the Eucharist, something stirred in my heart.

I wanted to learn more, to go again.

When I did, I felt that I couldn't live without it.

Continued on page 6

When bad things happen, don't give up and lean on Jesus. He will take you through the storm. At your darkest hours, the one thing to do is lean on Jesus.

Converted by the Eucharist in the Mass

Continued from page 5

My family was like, "You can do your religion stuff, just don't bring it to us." They actually had a bigger problem when we got married in the Catholic Church; they almost didn't come. They wanted me to get on birth control right away!

Now that you have been Catholic for about seven months, what has been your favorite part? Has anything surprised you?

I love the Mass, of course, and Shawn and I both love the

Rosary. It's amazing. I can't stress enough that the Rosary changes your life.

Surprises? Before going through RCIA, I was nervous about going to Confession. Now, I'm surprised by how much I like Confession. I can't go a whole month without going to Confession.

Shawn really loves Confession, too, and the saints, especially his Confirmation saint, Maximilian Kolbe. He's an amazing saint.

Who did you pick for your Confirmation saint?

St. Teresa of Calcutta. I liked that she loved the poor and went through a long, dry time spiritually. I find her very inspiring and relatable!

If you could say one thing to the people reading this interview, what would it be?

When bad things happen, don't give up and lean on Jesus. He will take you through the storm. At your darkest hours, the one thing to do is lean on Jesus.

Learning to bring the Gospel to others

Continued from page 3

friend may land on their spiritual journey. You may have a strong desire to share the faith with others, but feel unsure of how to help someone take their next step.

If this resonates with you, know that I completely understand and want to come alongside you! This fall we're launching "Stepping Up & Stepping Out: a guide to sharing the faith in commu-

nity." Stepping Up & Stepping Out engages small groups in evangelization. This course spends four weeks in training and four weeks in activation: working through understanding the conversion journey, growing in prophecy, and taking action with others through Bible study and friendship evangelization. More details on logistics will be coming soon!

The Lord Jesus wants to bring all people to Himself, and He wants to do it through us. But we don't have to do it on our own. He wants to pour out His Spirit to lead and guide us every step of the way. Let's begin the joyful journey of leading others into a relationship with Jesus and His Church!



Jessica Dudek is Director of Evangelization at Christ the King.

"Not all those who wander are lost"

Continued from page 4

Who did you pick for your Confirmation saint?

St. Augustine of Hippo. He was a premier theologian and defender of the Faith.

Also, one person gave me an abridged version of *The City of God*, and it's fantastic.

Anything else you'd like to leave our readers with?

J.R.R. Tolkien wrote, "Not all those who wander are lost." I wandered a long time, but God is very, very, very patient. Now I'm home.

John Kazanjian

Being true to who I had become

by John Kazanjian

To understand my story, you need to know a bit about Armenian history. In 301 AD, Armenia became the first Christian nation. That is foundational to being Armenian. To this day, it's very rare for an Armenian to not have their wedding or funeral in the church. Being Armenian means you're part of the church. It's part of your identity.

The Armenian Apostolic Church was part of the first split that occurred in the church in 451 at the Council of Chalcedon.

Although the Armenian Church is one of five Oriental Orthodox Churches that were separated after the Council, they prefer to call themselves Apostolic rather than Orthodox so as not to be confused with the Eastern Orthodox Church. The split occurred due to a disagreement about the language used to describe the nature of Christ. Thanks to dialogues that took place between Pope John Paul II and the Patriarch of the Armenian Church, Catholicos Karekin I, in the 1980s, the situation has greatly improved.

My father was the first member of his family to move to the U.S., settling in Massachusetts in 1955. As other members of the family immigrated, we eventually moved to California when I was 14. Once there, I went to an Armenian high school. Unfortunately, I didn't fit in and became more of a loner. That's when I stopped going to church and drifted into a worldly life.

My grandparents, too, came to be with us. They were survivors of the 1915 Turkish genocide and were the strongest believers I knew. They prayed before getting out of bed in the morning, then knelt in a corner reading the Bible before breakfast and again before bed at night. Grandpa was the most peaceful and contented person I knew—very unexpected from a man who had experienced so much death and trauma.

Grandpa died during my freshman year of college. As his six grandsons carried his coffin to the gravesite, one cousin, whom I admired greatly, turned and said, "This is the last man of faith in our family." It really impacted me. I remember thinking, "That's not right." I wanted to be like my grandfather, but I didn't know how.

That summer, I attended an Armenian camp on the East Coast to visit with old friends. At the same time, John Merigian, who was a member of the Word of God in Ann Arbor, came to the camp with the intention of trying to reach other Armenians with the Gospel.

John had the bunk across from me, and one morning he could see that something was bothering me when I woke up. I told him about a strange dream I'd had in which I was rejecting my favorite sins—sins I didn't have the power to reject while awake—because I could sense a dark



"presence" behind them that frightened me. Over the course of the week, he spoke to me directly about the reality of evil and the need to choose God and receive the power of the Holy Spirit to live as a disciple. By the end of the week, I agreed to surrender my life to the Lordship of Jesus. Nothing happened when I prayed that first dedication prayer, but the next morning I woke up with a desire to read the Bible, a desire that's never left me after 40 years.

John Merigian and I kept in touch. The following year, I experienced the Lord inviting me to move to Ann Arbor. When I got here, I immediately knew, "These are my people." I got involved with the Word of God community and also joined the Armenian Church in Southfield.

When I started dating my wife, Michelle, who is a Catholic, it was clear from the start that we would stay members of our own churches. So for many years, we attended the Saturday Vigil Mass at Christ

John Kazanjian entered the Catholic Church in February. He's a local businessman and has served as a country coordinator for Renewal Ministries. John and his wife, Michelle, have five daughters and eight grandchildren. They also coordinate a prayer ministry called "Live Free."

John Merigian spoke to me directly about the reality of evil and the need to choose God and receive the power of the Holy Spirit to live as a disciple. By the end of the week, I agreed to surrender my life to the Lordship of Jesus.

Continued on page 8

Being true to who I had become

Continued from page 7

When I asked Fr. Ed how to prepare, he said, "You've been preparing for 30 years." I also appreciated that no one had a triumphalistic response to the news. Everyone was very respectful of my Armenian identity.

the King and also the Sunday Mass at my church. Thanks to a joint letter issued by Pope John Paul II and Catholicos Karekin I, Michelle and I were able to receive Communion in both churches.

From the start, people at Christ the King accepted me for who I was. There was no rejection or pressure to become Catholic. I was always allowed to be part of the CTK family and welcomed into activities and even leadership. Among other things, I headed our men's retreat team for several years and was invited to be part of the team that raised money to build our church.

During this time, I also got involved with Renewal Ministries. That began when I was asked to go to Turkey with Ralph Martin. After that trip, Peter Herbeck invited me to become the country coordinator for their outreach to Turkey. I questioned whether it was appropriate for me to be the country coordinator for a Catholic apostolate, but I think they recognized that my theology was Catholic before I did.

Again, at Renewal Ministries, no one ever tried to "convert" me or pressure me to change churches, and that was very significant for me. As an Armenian, I was in a unique situation; to be honest, if I had been pressured, I probably would have argued, "You don't get it."

As time went on and our kids grew older, it was becoming more difficult, practically speaking, to attend both churches each week. In addition, the church I grew up in was becoming more challenging to work with, not because of its theology, but because of pastoral difficulties. Eventually, we decided to just attend Christ the King.

For me, becoming Catholic has brought a resonance, a coherence, to my life. There's no contradiction now. What I live and what I believe are one.

Meanwhile, my theology was becoming more Catholic, especially through the influence of Pope John Paul II. I was also discovering that what separates the Catholic and Armenian Churches is not so much the theology, it's the history. Armenians never forget. What happened 100 years ago is like a recent event to them. Remembering is a tribal obligation; memory is what holds Armenians together. Learning how to forgive, to remember differently without forgetting, is very challenging.

Last year when I felt like the Lord was inviting me to become Catholic, it wasn't a sud-

den conviction. It didn't turn on any particular issue. I felt that I just had to be true to who I had become.

I really appreciated Fr. Ed's response to my desire. When I asked him how to prepare, he said, "You've been preparing for 30 years." I also appreciated that no one had a triumphalistic response to the news. Everyone was very respectful of my Armenian identity.

John Merigian and my Armenian friends and family have all supported me in this new step. The only ones who don't yet know are my Armenian friends in Turkey, and they will find out when I go there in the fall.

I did have one person ask, "How can you leave behind your people?" I understand the question, but I don't believe that I'm leaving them behind. I'm bringing Armenia with me into the Universal Church.

For me, becoming Catholic has brought a resonance, a coherence, to my life. There's no contradiction now. What I live and what I believe are one.

To anyone else considering becoming Catholic, I would say, "Become Catholic for just one reason: because you believe that what the Church teaches is the truth." If you do, you'll never regret the decision.

From the Senior Leadership Team

Results from the Disciple Maker Index

by Bill Pressprich

“Results from the what?”

If that’s what you thought when you read the title of this article, I don’t blame you. Christ the King parishioners, along with the rest of the Diocese of Lansing, took the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey in February 2020—just before COVID-19 hit and brought life to a screeching halt. Although many things have changed since the pandemic, we believe that the results are still worthwhile and apologize for taking so long to communicate them to you.

The DMI is a tool developed by the Catholic Leadership Institute. The Diocese of Lansing arranged for all parishes to take the DMI as part of Bp. Boyea’s Realign Resources for Mission (RRM) initiative. The goal of the RRM is to determine how best to realign the diocese’s resources (personnel, property, financial, material), in order to further the mission of forming communities of missionary disciples who go announce the

Gospel of the Lord. You can learn more about the RRM initiative at their website, dioceseoflansing.org/RRM.

The DMI results were given to the Senior Leadership Team, not as a written report, but as a database which we could analyze using various tools. Therefore, it’s not possible to provide a complete report, but I will try to offer some highlights of the results.

There were 448 participants in the survey at Christ the King out of approximately 850 households. That’s a very high participation rate and provides high statistical significance.

In many areas, Christ the King and our parishioners had very high scores. For example,

- 62% of our respondents described themselves as having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and another 32% said that they were “growing as a disciple.”

This is near the top among all parishes that have taken the survey.

- Almost 100% agree or strongly agree that Scripture is the Word of God and the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ.
- 94% agree or strongly agree that the parish helps them grow as a Catholic.
- 95% agree or strongly agree that they would recommend the parish to a friend.

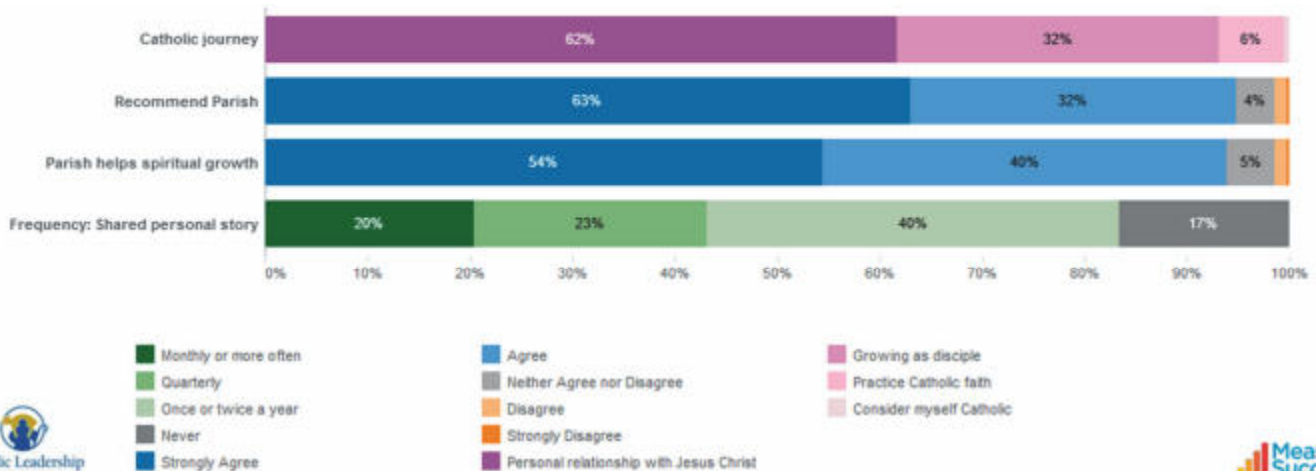
The survey also revealed opportunities for growth. For example,

- Fewer than half our parishioners share their personal witness story more than once or twice a year, and 17% have never shared their story. A significant number feel that the parish could do a better job of equipping them to have conversations about their faith with family members and friends. (If that’s you, be sure to read Jessica Dudek’s lead article in this issue.)

In many areas, Christ the King and our parishioners had very high scores. The survey also revealed opportunities for growth.

The chart below is among the many tools that allow parish leaders to analyze the results of the Disciple Maker Index, taken in the Diocese of Lansing in February 2020.

Continued on page 10



Results from the Disciple Maker Index

Continued from page 9

- Only 37% of our parishioners strongly agree that the parish makes them feel “welcomed and accepted,” which is about 7% lower than the average parish in the survey. Digging into that area, we actually come out well in all the related survey items except for “involving me in decisions that affect the future of the parish” and “follow-up with me when I express interest in becoming more involved.”

So what does this all mean?

Tools like the DMI can be very useful. They provide a snapshot of where we as a parish are at a point in time. As I described in the “Reflection on our 40th anniversary” article in the last issue of *The Open Door*, it is important to recognize that overall we are doing very well as a parish. For many of us, that’s just our lived experience. For others, that may describe our experience, but we may have concerns. That’s normal, this side of the second coming! Personally, I try to foster an attitude of thankfulness, while bringing my concerns to the Lord in prayer and working in love to encourage and help bring about positive change so we become more and more the church, the people of God, that He wants us to be.

Praise be to God that it is considered *normal* in our parish to

have a personal relationship with Jesus and to experience the presence and power of the Holy Spirit! When we come together at Mass, the Word is received as the real Word of God, we encounter the Real Presence in the Eucharist, and we experience the Holy Spirit active and present, especially in the praise and worship. I have heard from many visitors that they feel the presence of God when they walk into our church. It is easy to take this for granted. It is wonderful, something that we should discuss and share.

Where do we go from here?

The results of the survey have been shared among our senior leadership team, our directors, and staff. They are building on the positive results to continue growing these areas and addressing weaknesses where change is necessary. We will share these results with ministry leaders and others. If there is interest, we may have a town-hall meeting with anyone who would like to come.

Here are a few observations that may help:

1. **Create a welcoming, inviting environment.** This is what we all want. It is a shared responsibility, starting with Fr. Ed and clergy, leadership team, and staff and extending to each one of us. It usually doesn’t take much: being

genuinely happy to see and spend time with others, especially new people or people we don’t know very well; listening; getting involved and helping out; connecting people with others. It’s fun to get involved and serve, if we can!

2. **Celebrate our 40th anniversary year.** We have scheduled several opportunities to meet and have fun together over the coming 12 months. Take advantage of these.
3. **Take on Jesus’ mission to seek the lost and serve the poor.** Pray and discern anew where God may be leading you. Be intentional about it. Seek similarly-minded brothers and sisters who can accompany you and support you on your journey.
4. **You are important!** If you have questions or thoughts, please let us know. Please contribute them gently and, if necessary, persistently. If you don’t know who to contact, please feel free to start with me or Sharon Messiter at the CTK office. We want to hear from you!

Thank you for all you do to help make Christ the King such a wonderful place! May God bless you!

*You are important!
If you have questions or thoughts, please let us know. Please contribute them gently and, if necessary, persistently.*



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.

Please Note:
 Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this schedule is subject to change.
 Please check our website, ctkcc.net, for the latest information.

Schedule of Major Events

For the Mass schedule, check the bulletin or go to ctkcc.net/Mass-times

- 6/27: Dedication Anniversary, Coffee & Donuts
- 6/28-7/2: Vacation Bible School
- 7/5: Independence day observed; Parish Offices closed
- 7/5, 12, 19, 26: Flint Summer Youth Mission
- 7/9, 7/23, 8/27: Upper Room
- 8/13-14: 2021 CTK Men's Retreat
- 8/15: Parish Picnic
- 8/16-21: Photo sittings for the CTK Photo Directory
- 8/21-22: Ministry Fair

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

MAJOR EVENTS JULY-AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 27	28	29	30	July 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
Aug. 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	Sept 1	2	3	4

Save the Dates!

Fall Alpha

Starting in September
 Start praying now about who the Lord might want you to invite to a potentially life-changing experience through Alpha—or just come yourself! To learn more, go to ctkcc.net/alpha.



Parish Card & Game Night

Saturday, Sept. 18, 7-9pm
 Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship!



Undone: Freedom for the Feminine Heart

Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 11-13
 Ladies, mark your calendars now for this powerful conference put on by a team from the John Paul II Healing Center. Registration opens in August.



Check future bulletins and our website, ctkcc.net, for more details about these great events!

Back page:
 Image by Marjon Besteman from Pixabay, pixabay.com.



Christ the King Catholic Church

4000 Ave Maria Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-665-5040
www.ckcc.net
Facebook.com/ckcc

Senior Leadership Team

Fr. Ed Fride, Pastor: pastor@ckcc.net
Ken Bogan: kbogan@ckcc.net
Dcn. Dan Foley: dcndan@aol.com
John Hoving: jhoving@ckcc.net
Sharon Messiter: smessiter@ckcc.net
Bill Pressprich: wpressprich@comcast.net

Deacons

Dcn. Dan Foley: dcndan@aol.com
Dcn. Pete Hansen: dcnpete@ckcc.net
Dcn. Gerry Holowicki: dcngerry@ckcc.net
Dcn. John Ozog: dcnjohn@ckcc.net
Dcn. Larry Randolph: dcnlarry@ckcc.net
Dcn. Lou Russello: dcnlou@ckcc.net

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr. Ed Fride, President: pastor@ckcc.net
Bill Pressprich, Chair: wpressprich@comcast.net
Veronica Cherney Betty Meredith
Pete Cooney Greg Stout
Christian Fenton Colleen Vermeulen
Nuala Holowicki

Newsletter Contributors

Theresa Hofer, Editor: thofer@ckcc.net
Jessica Dudek Bill Pressprich
Fr. Ed Fride Destiny & Shawn Sands
John Kazanjian Thomas Strode

Coming in future issues...

- Parishioner profiles
- Adoration testimonies
- More celebrations!

Look for this and more in future issues of

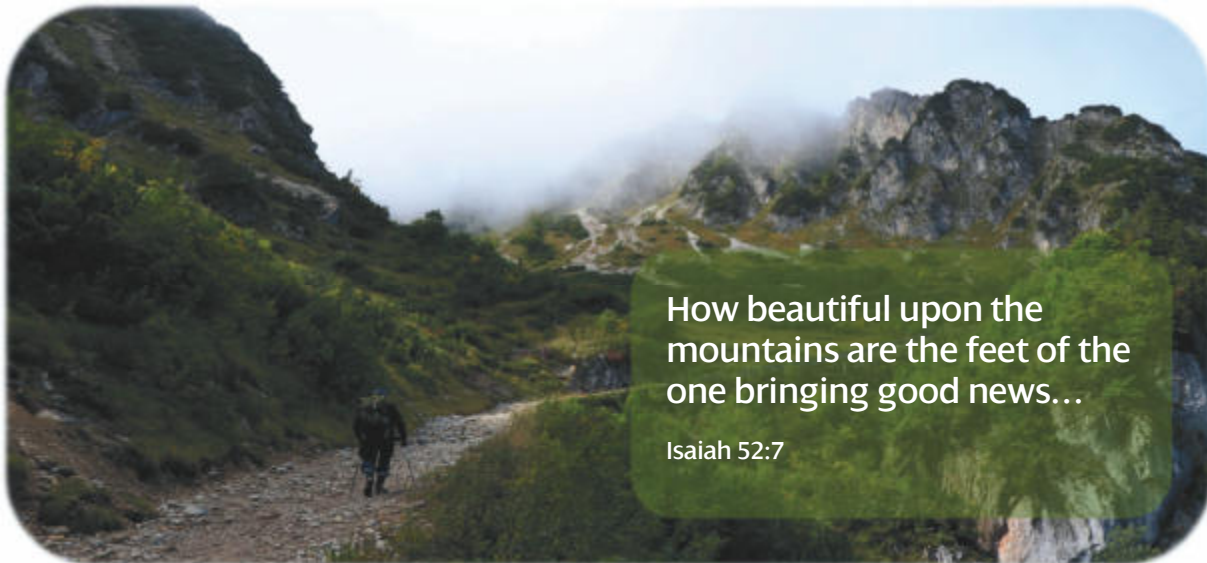
The Open Door

Parish Staff

Ken Bogan, Director of Operations: kbogan@ckcc.net
Kelley Burns, Director of Worship: kburns@ckcc.net
Jessica Dudek, Director of Evangelization: jdudek@ckcc.net
Caroline Gambale-Dirkes, Upper Room Coordinator: cdirkcs@ckcc.net
Teresa Gjernes, A1:8 Intern: teresafastinajean@gmail.com
Aimée Godfrey, Director of Adult Discipleship: agodfrey@ckcc.net
Rosalia Guza, A1:8 Administrative Assistant: youthdiscipleship@ckcc.net
Doug Helderop, Director of Communications & Technology: dhelderop@ckcc.net
Mac Hilliard, Janitor
Theresa Hofer, Communications Coordinator: thofer@ckcc.net
Bruce Hohnke, Maintenance
Cathi Horning, Janitor
John Hoving, Director of Youth Discipleship: jhoving@ckcc.net
Sharon Messiter, Office Manager: smessiter@ckcc.net
Susan Perrier, Assistant Director of Youth Discipleship: sperrier@ckcc.net
Lauren Sauter, Youth Discipleship Administrative Assistant: lsauter@ckcc.net
Peter Vanicelli, Liturgical Coordinator: pvanicelli@ckcc.net

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

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



How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news...

Isaiah 52:7