



# PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021

SEPT | OCT | NOV



## A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR



The world continues to face the challenges of the pandemic and we keep on standing together to overcome the many obstacles that confront us. The Parish of Christ the King receives this season with the third year of our strategic plan—Building the Kingdom of God Among Us. This focus will allow us to direct our efforts toward becoming missionary disciples and empowering people to be agents of hope in the midst of so much despair.

We have welcomed Fr. Jon as Associate Pastor, Tara Lauderdale as our new FOCUS Missionary, and Sarah Seck as the new Coordinator of Family Ministries. Their work has been beautifully integrated with the initiatives we presented previously as part of our strategic approach to evangelization. If you have not had the chance to meet them in person, please do so!

Our Summer Parish Mission helped couples to reflect on the gifts, challenges, and

opportunities in their marriage. Sixty couples attended this great event that stressed the importance of the Domestic Church in our parish. The Spiritual Camino in July also helped many parishioners to consider some real and practical concerns in their spiritual life and family dynamics. The apostle St. James guided us through this spiritual pilgrimage that is bearing great fruits among us.

We have also begun our College Connection Ministry. A great initiative that will help keep our parishioners spiritually engaged and encouraged by their faith life as they navigate their transition into college, careers, and relationships. These efforts are all made with the purpose of giving glory to God by helping our parishioners grow in their faith.

This fall, our implementation of *Building the Kingdom of God Among us* will be based on the "Fruits of the Holy Spirit." Our Fall

Spirituality Series will help us reflect on this beautiful aspect of our Christian lives. This special emphasis will reinforce our determination to send out more laborers to the harvest by committing to a life of love, joy, peace, kindness, generosity, gentleness, fidelity, and self-control.

Finally, I want to thank you for your support and understanding during the past months. Your dedication and faith have inspired me and our staff to keep serving you with generosity and faithful creativity. I hope that you learn more about our ministries and keep building with us the kingdom where we are made children of our Heavenly Father. ■

In Christ,

Fr. Elkin J. González  
Pastor



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## YEAR THREE

This month we enter the final year of our three-year response to Bishop Konderla's pastoral letter, *God Builds a House*. Our focus this year is "Building the Kingdom of God Among Us." We are made for communion with God and through Him, for communion with others. Part of this communion is an intentional sharing of the Person of Jesus Christ with those we encounter in our daily lives.

This year, we will focus on practicing missionary skills:

- sharing the Gospel,
- serving the poor,
- gathering in intentional community,
- sharing our personal testimonies and our faith with family, friends, and coworkers, and
- inviting others into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

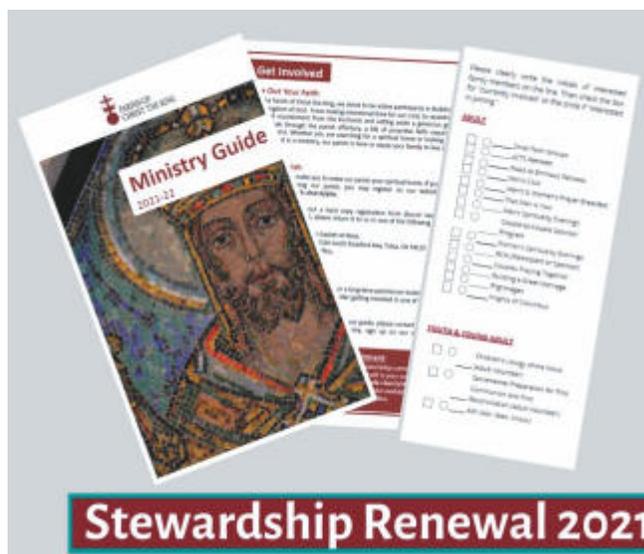
These tasks can seem intimidating, but God has called us for this mission, and He equips us with everything we need.

As a parish, let us labor together and pray for a fruitful year of living out the Gospel!

## STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL: WHY IT MATTERS

Each year, the parish asks all parishioners to renew their commitment of **time**, **talent** and **treasure** through participation in our stewardship renewal campaign. Whether you are new to our parish or have filled it out a dozen times before, submission each year is critical for the following reasons:

- It serves as our official record of who is in what ministry. This means if you are currently active in a ministry that we still need your submission to indicate you are interested in continuing to serve on this ministry for an additional year.
- Allows us to connect you with the leaders of the specific ministries you show interest in. By submitting your form you are giving our ministry leaders permission to contact you, share upcoming meeting times, etc.
- Stewardship renewal is required for all Marquette families seeking active parishioner status.



Fill out your commitment card online at: [www.christthekingcatholic.church/stewardship](http://www.christthekingcatholic.church/stewardship)

# COLLEGE CONNECTION

With the 2021-2022 academic year just underway and dozens of parish families adjusting to life with a college kid, a new ministry has launched to provide support. Designed for parishioners and college students alike, the College Connection Ministry seeks to provide support to our parish's college bound regardless how far or close to home they may be pursuing their dreams.

“My firstborn just started college, and, as her mother, I want to make sure she has all the support she needs,” said Sara Say, ministry founder and leader. “Her parish and the sacraments are important to her. With our Senior High events, Quest, and the Young Adults ministry, we need something to cover the gap between high school and college graduates. Christ the King is just the parish to develop a college ministry.”



Ministry volunteers will “adopt” a student and provide prayer, encouragement via mailed cards (5-7 times per year) and survival kits containing prayer cards, snacks, gift cards, etc. to serve as reminders of the larger parish family for participating students. While volunteers can commit to as much or little as they wish, the main focus will be praying for the safety and success of our college students.

“My hope is that the survival kits will be received as small tokens of our parish’s love for them, offer support in a moment of need, and bring a smile to their faces,” said Sara.

On the other hand, participating college students will benefit from the generosity of our parish as they are encouraged throughout their academic pursuits. And what college kid does not welcome cards and goodie bags!

While cards and goodie bags will serve as the physical reminders of the parish’s support, it is through our collective prayers that Sara is hoping to make the biggest impact.

“Change is difficult in even the best situations, but for first-time college students the added challenges of a new environment can be grueling,” she added. “Praying for and showing support to our students as they journey through college is something easy and powerful that we can all do to help.”

If you would like to offer your support as a parishioner *or* to participate as a college student (Yes moms and dads, feel free to sign up your college-bound), please email [ctkcollegeministry@christthekingcatholic.church](mailto:ctkcollegeministry@christthekingcatholic.church) and indicate if you are a volunteer or college participant. ■

# HOW A DEAD, OLD WOMAN TAUGHT ME TO LIVE

By Fr. Jon Fincher, Associate Pastor

As we begin year three of our “Building the Kingdom of God” pastoral plan, we will be focusing on living as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. This means letting Christ transform our lives so that He can truly live through each of us and bring about good in the lives of others. If we are to live like Jesus, then we must have a love for the poor.

I have been blessed to work in Calcutta and Rome with the Missionaries of Charity, the religious community founded by St. Teresa of Calcutta. I would like to share some of those experiences with you, not to hold myself up, but so that the Lord may use some of my experiences to lead you closer to His own heart.

During volunteer registration in Calcutta, Sr. Mercy Maria, M.C. said, “God brings people to Calcutta so that they may experience their own poverty. You will experience this poverty during your month here.” I didn't know what this meant, but I would soon find out. An old dead woman in a white and blue sari would soon teach me this lesson and many more.

Each morning in Calcutta we began with Mass at Motherhouse, and we ended our day with Holy Hour again at Motherhouse. Pope Francis talks about the Church as a field hospital for the sinner. I never fully understood this until working with the MCs.

For me, Motherhouse was a refugee. It was a place where I could escape the chaos of the city and be with Jesus Christ. I remember one occasion while serving Mass. During Communion I was holding the paten as people were receiving the Eucharist. As I looked down, I saw several crumbs of the Eucharist on it. I thought, “Jesus, that tiny particle of You is enough to save the entire world, it is enough to save me, it is enough to give me life today.”

The sisters showed me what our parishes should look like—places where broken and tired disciples can come each Sunday to receive the Eucharist, to receive Jesus Himself. From the parish with Jesus, we can be sent back out into the world to do His will and to be His light.

Further, serving the poor in Calcutta gave me new insight into my own poverty. Mother Theresa puts it best,

*“God cannot fill what is full—He can fill only emptiness—deep poverty—and your “Yes” is the beginning of being or becoming empty. It is not how much we really “have” to give—but how empty we are—so that we can receive fully in our life and let Him live His life in us...Take away your eyes from yourself and rejoice that you have nothing—that you are nothing—that you can do nothing. Give Jesus a big smile—each time your nothingness frightens you...You and I must let Him live in us & through us in the world...tell Him I am Yours & if you cut me to pieces every single piece will be only all Yours” (Mother Teresa, Come Be My Light, 275).*

Mother Teresa and her missionary community taught me how to fully live the Christian life – to live a life of joy when the world seems dark and abandoned, to love your neighbor even when they don't love you, to give more than you ever thought possible, to let God fill the emptiness that we each experience. Mother Teresa, through the grace of Jesus Christ, transformed my life and for that I am forever grateful. ■



# MEET TARA LAUDERDALE

CTK's New FOCUS Missionary



**Q: How/when/where did you become involved with FOCUS? What about this ministry attracted you?**

**A:** I became involved with FOCUS during my time in college at Oklahoma State University. I was drawn to the FOCUS missionaries because of their radical pursuit of holiness and how they deeply invested in friendship with college students, to lead them into deep relationship with Christ. I was so struck by the ministry of FOCUS because their mission of leading young people to Christ truly is the mission of the Catholic Church.

**Q: What was the biggest takeaway that you learned while serving as a FOCUS missionary?**

**A:** The biggest lesson I learned while serving as a missionary on campus was that the mission is not about me—not about my strengths, desires, plans—but it is all truly about Jesus Christ and following Him. I learned that my life has to be at the service of Christ.

**Q: What part of ministering to others do you find most fulfilling?**

**A:** I love ministry because I enjoy sharing the person that I love the most, Jesus Christ. I have come to learn that on my own, I have nothing to offer. What I have to offer is the life-saving message of the Gospel and the person of Jesus Christ. When I am ministering to someone, and they finally have a real and true encounter with Christ, I realize that God is giving me the greatest gift of showing people who they are made for.

**Q: What are you looking forward to the most during your time at the Parish of Christ the King?**

**A:** After serving college students for three years, I am so excited to serve people within the parish. I am looking forward to serving the people at CTK by inviting them into intimate relationships with Christ, teaching them how to be missionary disciples and giving them the tools they need for evangelization.

**Q: In working with college students, what did you find most encouraging for the future of the Church?**

**A:** I was most encouraged by working with college students in respect to the future of the Church because they affirmed the real truth that every person is meant to hear the message of the Gospel. This message truly brings people back to life and gives their lives meaning. I watched so many students encounter Jesus and then desire to give their whole lives to Him. Jesus truly is enough, and when we meet Him and confidently share Him with others, the Church is always renewed. ■

## About FOCUS

FOCUS stands for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. Their Parish Outreach program, which Tara is apart of, takes FOCUS' model of spiritual multiplication from the campus to the parish. Experienced campus missionaries transition to the parish mission field and offer their evangelization skills and training to teach parishioners how to pray, evangelize and make disciples of others.

# MISSION OF MINISTRY

Over the last three years, our parish has been working to Build the Kingdom of God - to know, love, and serve Him in our families, workplaces, and community. In all efforts to build His Kingdom, God Himself initiates the real growth, but He calls us to join Him in His work - to be collaborators.

Last year, the CTK staff had the unprecedented opportunity to turn its focus inward as outward activities were halted due to the pandemic. This pause provided an opportunity to both reflect on all He has provided our parish through our ministries so far and conduct long-term visioning for the future to see how we can best labor with Him.

As a result, our ministry team is growing. In June, we announced the hiring of Sarah Seck as our coordinator of family ministry--a new position. A familiar face on campus, Sarah previously served as a first grade teacher at Marquette. She brings tremendous knowledge of our community and direct ministry experience to our team.

"Over the past year, I have been discerning a calling that God has placed in my heart," said Sarah. "I couldn't quite understand His plan until I saw this new ministry opportunity at Christ the King. I knew God was calling me to this. While I will miss being in a classroom with 22 beautiful children, I take comfort in knowing that I will still be very present at Marquette and within the parish community. I am excited to continue building relationships with students and families as I walk with them on their journey to a deeper relationship with Christ."

Additionally, plans are in the works to further expand the team with the hiring of a Coordinator of Youth and Young Adults in the future.

With these new positions, we hope to elevate the role of the family in the domestic Church and equip families to live out the Gospel message. We believe this will further enhance parish life at CTK and help form parishioners to work with God in building His kingdom.

We encourage your family to become active participants in the faith through one or more of our ministries. Together, we can spread the fruits of discipleship within our families and communities. ■





## STATE OF THE SCHOOL

*By Jay Luetkemeyer, Principal*



As we settle into a new semester, Marquette and the Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) are poised to have a fantastic year.

Our playground project is nearing completion and our students will be able to enjoy the completed project in the weeks to come. The new space will feature updates to the grounds, new equipment, a nature play area, and an outdoor classroom. The potential for this space for our students and Parish is extraordinary, and we cannot wait to join together and celebrate it as a community.

In fact, coming together as a community in ways the

pandemic has prevented us from doing so this past year and a half is one of the most exciting aspects of the new school year. Both Marquette and ECDC are welcoming parents back into the building for morning drop off as well as volunteering opportunities.

Additionally, the first two Fridays of our school year we welcomed back three beloved Marquette traditions I imagine we will never take for granted again—All School Mass, the 8th Annual Theban Family Spaghetti Dinner, and our 8th Grade Bingo Night.

Additionally, we welcome four new faculty members to our family this year. I look forward to watching them make their impact known while also experiencing the spirit and close-knit community that makes this place so special.

With a fervor to make up for lost time together, cheers to new beginnings! ■

### Welcome our New Teachers

#### Middle School Math

- Mr. Gaffen
- University of Tulsa alumnus
- Previously taught at Union Public Schools and Claremore Public schools for over 13 years

#### 1st Grade Homeroom

- Ms. Pringle
- University of Kansas alumna
- Previously served as a substitute and assistant teacher at Holland Hall

#### Physical Education

- Mr. Limes
- OSU-Tulsa and Marquette alumnus
- Previous MQ basketball coach and son of Mrs. Limes

#### K-5th Grade Spanish

- Ms. Kerina Montilla
- Oklahoma State University alumna
- Previously taught for Tulsa Public Schools
- Daughter, Evangeline, is a current third grader at Marquette

# Save the Dates



## **Christ Care Day**

Saturday, Sept. 11

## **Fr. Elkin's Fall Spirituality Series**

- Saturday, Sept. 18: The Holy Spirit, the Great Unknown
- Saturday, Oct. 9: The Fruits of the Holy Spirit as Signs of Holiness
- Saturday, Nov. 13: Religion or Spirituality?

## **Women's Spirituality Evening**

Thursday, Sept. 23

## **Men's Spirituality Evening**

Thursday, Sept. 30

## **Men's Club Catholic Leadership Series**

Thursday, Nov. 4 | noon to 1 p.m.