

# Christ the King THE BROADCAST



JANUARY 23, 2022

20800 Grand River Avenue Detroit, Michigan 48219

## PARISH MISSION

We are Christ the King Parish, a richly diverse Christian Community in Northwest Detroit. We are on a journey of Discipleship with Jesus, seeking conversion, reconciliation and renewal. We reach out in welcome to all the people within our neighborhood, proclaiming the good News of Christ the King, building community, celebrating together, serving one another's needs and the needs of all our neighbors.

### Thank you again for supporting our 2021 Christmas assist program!

We were able to provide a total of \$95,000 in assistance. This included gift cards provided to us after the Christmas Program distribution was completed on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who called or came to the pantry was provided help through December 24<sup>th</sup>. We retained a slight reserve of gift cards to meet the needs during upcoming winter months.

We served 309 families which was 1421 individuals. This was 23 more families that in 2020 and 87 more community members.

Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan has been a huge donor to our program adopting seventy-six families and 627 clients this year. This allowed us to provide gift cards more generously to those families in our program not adopted by CCSEM. We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations of so many of our Christ the King parishioners and our incredibly supportive suburban parishes.

We were able to provide each person in our program with at least \$75.00 in gift cards, a

family of four or five receiving between \$250.00 and \$300.00 in gift cards. We believe it allowed for many gifts to be provided for everyone in the family. We supplied an abundance of food items, coats, socks, mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves. On December 14<sup>th</sup> 225 hams were given to individuals or families to enjoy for the Christmas holiday along with all the trimmings. Our St. Vincent de Paul Con-

ference, with the help of you and pantry volunteers, again brought The

Angel Tree Program and provided forty-five children of incarcerated parents and guardians with gifts of spiritual items, toys, blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, and information about a special-free summer camp and bible, available to them. The

**incredible** volunteers who work at St. Christine's Food Pantry made all this possible under the direction of our pantry manager Maggie Segal.

Cathy Gillis and her amazing

volunteers at the soup kitchen continue to provide our community members and the volunteers with very tasty and nutritious meals. This was most crucial to the



success of our Christmas program.

We are grateful to The St. Christine's Board of Directors for their support and guidance, especially with all the challenges faced by both the soup kitchen and food pantry during this pandemic.

Thank you to Deacon Chris Remus who helps start each Tuesday with a word of prayer, so we can indeed see the face of Jesus in everyone we serve.





## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A Different Kind of Bucket-List

What's still unfinished in your life?

Well, there's always a lot that's unfinished in everyone's life. Nothing is ever really finished. Our lives, it seems, are simply interrupted by our dying. Most of us don't complete our lives, we just run out of time. So, consciously or unconsciously, we make a bucket-list of things we still want to see, do, and finish before we die.

What do we still want to do? A number of things probably immediately come to the fore: We want to see our children grow up. We want to see our daughter's wedding. We want to see our grandchildren. We want to finish this last work of art, of writing, of building. We want to see our 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. We want to reconcile with our family.

Beyond these, more important things, we generally have another list of things we were too busy, preoccupied, or economically disadvantaged to do earlier in life: We want to walk the Camino, travel to the Holy Land, see the historical sites of Europe, back-pack through parts of Asia, travel the country with our grandkids, enjoy our retirement.

But in fantasizing about what's unfinished in our lives there's the danger of missing out on the richness of what's actually going on in our lives and our real task in the moment. The better question is: How do I want to live now so as to be ready to die when it's my time?

In a wonderful little book on contemplation, *Biography of Silence*, Spanish author, Pablo d'Ors, stares his mortality in the face and decides that this is what he wants to do in face of the inalienable fact that he's one day to die. Here's his bucket list: "I have decided to stand up and open my eyes. I have decided to eat and drink in moderation, to sleep as necessary, to write only what contributes toward improving those who read me, to abstain from greed, and never compare myself to others. I have also decided to water my plants and care for an animal. I will visit the sick, I will converse with the lonely, and I will not let much time go by before playing with a child. In the same manner I have decided to recite my prayers every day, to bow several times before the things I consider sacred, to celebrate the Eucharist, to listen to the Word, to break bread and share the wine, to give peace, to sing in unison. And to go for walks, which I find essential. And to light the fire, which is also essential. And to shop without hurry, to greet my neighbors even when I do not like seeing their faces, to subscribe to a newspaper, to regularly call my friends and siblings on the phone. And to take excursions, swim in the sea at least once a year, and to read only good books, or reread those that I have liked. ... I will live for those things according to an ethics of attention and care. And this is how I will arrive at a happy old age, when I will contemplate, humble and proud at the same time, the small but grand orchard that I have cultivated. Life as cult, culture, and cultivation."

*Life as a cult, culture, and cultivation:* I'm a two-time cancer survivor. When first diagnosed with cancer seven years ago, the prognosis was good. I had a scare, but time still stretched out endlessly before me. But when the cancer returned four years ago, the doctors were less optimistic and told me, in unequivocal terms, that my time was probably short, no more endless days. That prognosis clarified my thoughts and feelings as nothing ever before. Stunned, I went home, sat down in prayer, and then wrote this mini-creed for myself, with a different kind of bucket-list:

*I am going to strive to be as productive as long as I can.*

*I am going to make every day and every activity as precious and enjoyable as possible.*

*I am going to strive to be as gracious, warm, and charitable as possible.*

*I am going to strive to be as healthy as long as I can.*

*I am going to strive to accept others' love in a deeper way than I have up to now.*

*I am going to strive to live a more-fully "reconciled" life. No room for past hurts anymore.*

*I am going to strive to keep my sense of humor intact.*

*I am going to strive to be as courageous and brave as I can.*

*I am going to strive, always, to never look on what I am losing, but rather to look at how wonderful and full my life has been and is.*

*And, I am going to, daily, lay all of this at God's feet through prayer.*

Not incidentally, since then I have also begun to water plants, care for a feral cat, and feed all the neighborhood birds. *Life as cult, culture, and cultivation. Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI*



### *LOL! How would you answer?*

"Why did God make mosquitoes? All they do is bite you? *Why* would he do that?!"

"Why does God stay in heaven and not come down to earth to visit?"

"I think my 4-year-old son got confused when we told him that God watches over us. He said 'Wait, so God is Santa Claus?'"

"Did Jesus get potty trained as fast as me?"

"Is Jesus a zombie?"

"Can God read our minds?"

"Is Santa God's really rich brother?"

"If God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone... how come He never made himself a wife?"

"If God sees everything, does he watch us in the shower?"

"I teach preschool Sunday school and ... I talked about Jesus as the Good Shepherd and how He will leave 99 sheep to find one lost one. One little boy piped up, 'Did Jesus live in a zoo?'"

"When my oldest was about 3, we found a baby bird in the yard that had fallen from its nest. When I went to check on it the next morning, it had died. When I took the kids out to play, I discreetly scooped him up, put him in a bag and in the trash. When we came in, my son said, 'Mama, what happened to that baby bird?' Trying to skirt the issue, I said, 'Oh, you don't have to worry about that baby bird, he lives with Jesus now.' He looked at my thoughtfully for a few moments and said, 'Jesus lives in the trash?'"

"Did Jesus practice walking on water first? How can I do it?"

"If Jesus doesn't have a sister, why do I need to have one?"

***Out of the mouths of babes!***

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