



# The Open Door

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

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2020 VOLUME 4.2

"Lead, Kindly Light" 2

Our newest Sister Parish 6

Christ the King 2019-2020 Financial Report 7

Charitable Giving and the New Tax Act 10

Calendar 11

Join the Year of the Bible with Bishop Boyea!



## Discipleship

*A lifelong journey guided by the light of the Holy Spirit*

by Aimée Godfrey

***"From the outset, conversion is expressed in faith which is total and radical, and which neither limits nor hinders God's gift. At the same time, it gives rise to a dynamic and lifelong process which demands a continual turning away from "life according to the flesh" to "life according to the Spirit" (cf. Rom 8:3-13). Conversion means accepting, by a personal decision, the saving sovereignty of Christ and becoming His disciple."***

St. John Paul the Great

**I think that we're all** getting tired of hearing that we're living in unprecedented times. However, there is no way to escape the fact that these are, indeed, unprecedented times.

When faced with times such as these, our tendency is to hunker down and just try to make it through. Is that the right response, though? During his pontificate, St. John Paul the Great challenged us to "Put out into the deep" and to "Be not afraid!" Those exhortations didn't end with his pontificate.

Those exhortations remind us

that, just like Esther, we were made for such a time as this! (Esther 4:14)

Therefore, now, more than ever, it is time to put out into the deep. At Christ the King we exist to joyfully worship God and raise up Spirit-filled disciples. Now more than ever, the world needs joyful worship and disciples who are Spirit-filled. Now is not the time to hunker down. Now is the time to fully enter into our identity as sons and daughters of the King, who are deeply loved by Him and who are called to live fully for Him.

Continued on page 3

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

## “Lead, Kindly Light”

*By cooperating with the Holy Spirit as He leads us in becoming more and more disciples of the Lord Jesus, we can protect and increase our faith, hope, and love*

by Fr. Ed Fride

As we face, realistically and unafraid, the “encircling gloom,” we do it with a conscious awareness of the truth that guides our lives: “The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overpower it.”



*Editor's note: This article was originally sent as a letter via email to Christ the King parishioners on Nov. 17, 2020.*

### **My friends in Christ the King,**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! That's a great way to start an important letter—at least St. Paul thought so! But seriously, this is a gift that we all have for each other: the ability to cooperate with each other so that grace and peace can be found more and more in our hearts, in our families, in our parish. Bishop Boyea in a recent Friday Memo had a wonderful quote from the great St. John Henry Newman to help us in this never-ending task:

***Lead, Kindly Light,  
amid the encircling gloom,  
Lead Thou me on!  
The night is dark,  
and I am far from home —  
Lead Thou me on!***

As we face, realistically and unafraid, the “encircling gloom,” we do it with a conscious awareness of the truth that guides our lives: “The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overpower it.” (John 1:5) As we celebrate the great Solemnity which concludes our liturgical year and is the source of our parish name, Christ the King, we encourage each other with this fact: darkness must flee before the onslaught of the Light! For us, the Light is a Person Who loves us beyond words, and Whose words to us during this interesting time include: “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you... Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” (John 14:27).

One of the reasons why we have nothing to fear was well-expressed in my favorite '70s poster. It had a picture of the Lord Jesus holding the globe

and the caption read, “I don't know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future!”

Do we believe that? As we enter into another shutdown, it can be very challenging to believe that the Lord Jesus holds the future in His hands. The worldly circumstances that constantly scream for our attention and the spiritual warfare that frequently accompanies them conspire together to get us to doubt Who He is and what He is capable of. The difficulties we are experiencing personally, in our families and in the other situations in our lives, can all join in the chorus of those inviting us to not trust Him, that the problems are too great.

**Several years ago** when I spent a week with St. Teresa of Calcutta, I noticed that when her folks were giving reports to her about how things were going with the Missionaries of Charity in different parts of the world, if they ever used the word “problem” she immediately corrected them. She said, “There are gifts from God, and there are unusual gifts from God.” Several of the folks immediately modified their reports to make mention of several “unusual gifts from God” that they were dealing with. It was moderately amusing, but she made the point. If that woman could have that attitude, as personally and inti-

*Continued on page 5*

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# Discipleship: A lifelong journey...

Continued from page 1

Our desire as staff and leaders at Christ the King is to provide opportunities for that to happen, to accompany you on the journey of discipleship, and to support you as you grow in discipleship. With that in mind, a few years ago we began to develop a Discipleship Pathway. We met with the leaders of different ministries at Christ the King and also held focus groups with members of the parish. Perhaps you attended some of them. After gathering all your feedback and spending much time in prayer and consideration, we believe that we have developed a Discipleship Pathway that will not only serve the needs of our

parishioners, but also those who may be considering joining Christ the King.



**Worship**  
*God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)*

The core of our lives as disciples is the worship that we give to the Lord. Therefore, worship is the foundation for the rest of the Discipleship Pathway. At Christ the King, there are many ways that we engage in worship. First and foremost is our participation in the Mass. However, we also

have opportunities to worship the Lord in Adoration, at Upper Room praise and worship, and through other times of group and personal prayer. Our goal is to joyfully worship the Lord in all that we do.



**Encounter**  
*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)*

As a parish, our desire is that everyone would have a life-changing encounter with Jesus.

*The core of our lives as disciples is the worship that we give to the Lord. Therefore, worship is the foundation for the rest of the Discipleship Pathway.*

Continued on page 4

## Frequently Asked Questions about... The Discipleship Pathway

**As a parishioner, how do I fit into the Discipleship Pathway?**

Good question! You can fit into any spot that works for you and your family. If attending or serving at Alpha isn't in the cards right now, consider joining a Connect Group, serving at a Sunday Liturgy, or joining a Bible Study.

**Do I have to do things in a particular order?**

No! The Holy Spirit works in our lives in ways that are unique and individual. We're excited for you to pray about where God might want you to start and to explore the different

options that are available to you.

**I'm not a Catholic. Can I participate in the Discipleship Pathway?**

Yes! All are welcome to join in any aspect of the Pathway where they feel comfortable. While we do recommend that you start with Alpha if you are just learning about the faith, please feel free to jump in at any of the points that appeal to you.

**How was this Pathway developed?**

It was developed through focus groups that we held with parishioners from 2018 to 2019

and through discussion with the leaders of ministries at Christ the King. The Directors and the Senior Leadership Team took all the feedback that we received and used that to develop the Discipleship Pathway.

**How is this different from what we have been doing at Christ the King?**

It is important to note that this pathway is not substantially different from what we have already been doing at CTK. Developing this pathway involved reorganizing all the ministries represented at the parish so that they are better supported by the staff and more accessible to parishioners.

## Discipleship: A lifelong journey...

Continued from page 3

*Discipleship is not a linear process; it is a continual work in progress.*

*What God is asking us to do with our time often changes with the current circumstances of our lives.*



Participation in Alpha and the Alpha Team is one way that we hope to facilitate this encounter, but there are others as well. We also strive for a hospitable and invitational culture that shows all parishioners that they are loved and welcomed.

 **Grow**  
*Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. (Matthew 13:8)*

At Christ the King, we exist to raise up Spirit-filled disciples. Becoming a disciple is a lifelong journey, and the Catholic Church contains a wealth of wisdom to help us grow as we walk on our journey. We are excited for you to explore the different programs and ministries available to you to help you develop a deeper relationship with Jesus. Whether it's in a Discipleship Group, a Connect Group, or at a retreat, our goal is to provide a place for you to grow as a disciple.



Aimée Godfrey is Director of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King. She and her husband, Paul, have two children, Olivia and David Peter.



### Serve

*And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)*

All of us have gifts and passions that the Lord has placed in our hearts. Do you have a gift for listening and accompanying others during their struggles? The Stephen Ministry might be a great place for you to serve. Do you play an instrument and long to serve the Lord with that gift? Consider joining the Liturgy Team. Do you have a heart for those struggling with food insecurity or lack of medical care? Consider volunteering at Hope Clinic. Whatever gifts God has given you, we are dedicated to helping you use them!

**I encourage you** to look at the different parts of the pathway—Worship, Encounter, Grow, Serve—and pray

about where God is asking you to jump in. The idea is not that each parishioner would be involved in every single element of this pathway at every time, but that you would discern what God wants you to do given your current circumstances. For a while, He may be asking you to invest your time in a Discipleship Group (Grow), but then He may ask you to serve on the Alpha Team (Encounter) or the Liturgy Team (Serve/Worship), or to attend Upper Room (Worship) more regularly. Discipleship is not a linear process; it's a continual work in progress. What God is asking us to do with our time often changes with the current circumstances of our lives.

You may be thinking that this is an odd time to try to do something like roll out the Discipleship Pathway. I believe that now, more than ever, is the time to make a decision to allow yourself to be pursued and caught by Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Our commitment to you as the staff of Christ the King is that we will walk with you on that journey. We will do our best to love and support you as you put out into the deep.

**If you have questions** about the Discipleship Pathway, please feel free to contact me at 734-929-0983 or [agodfrey@ctkcc.net](mailto:agodfrey@ctkcc.net). You can also check out our new website at [www.ctkcc.net](http://www.ctkcc.net).

## “Lead, Kindly Light”

Continued from page 2

mately familiar as she was with the worst situations of human life, and especially during a time when she was apparently experiencing significant personal spiritual darkness, then we should take heart and make that attitude our own.

**The key is having hope.** Bishop Boyea addressed that in his Memo as well:

*It can be easy at times simply to despair, to give up. That is why we are grateful that God graced us with this wonderful virtue which keeps us going, which motivates us, which helps us to have faith and love and to live out all the other virtues. This hope, to which we cling, is a life-line to the Father which he has placed in our hearts and souls. We are “encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm...” Let us hold on to this gift and eagerly become the sons and daughters God desires us to be.*

In this challenging time, perhaps the greatest threat to our identity as disciples of the Lord Jesus is not an attack on our faith or love, but an ongoing attack on our hope. How do we counter this attack? I believe that one of the most effective ways that we can protect and increase not only our hope but our faith and love as well is by cooperating with the Holy Spirit as He leads us in the task of becoming more and more the disciples the Lord Jesus has called us to be.

Our Discipleship Pathway was designed with exactly that in



mind. This is the way we can fulfill that crucial final clause in Pope St. John Paul the Great’s definition of conversion: “Conversion means accepting, by a personal decision, the saving sovereignty of Christ *and becoming his disciple.*” (*Redemptoris Missio*, #46, emphasis added). What was the consequence of this in his life? I believe that his active and ongoing engagement with “becoming His disciple” resulted in his ability to constantly proclaim to the rest of us: “Be not afraid!” Like St. Teresa of Calcutta, he had seen much of the worst that humanity can do, both from the Nazis and the Communists, and yet, like her, because of his faith, hope, and love, born out of his ongoing efforts as a disciple, he could proclaim to us, “Be not afraid” because it worked for him! Because he had followed his own advice to “Open wide the doors of your heart to Christ,” fear was not a problem. He knew Who he trusted and Who was the source of his hope. Well, we know Who we trust and Who is the source of our hope!

The various components of our Discipleship Pathway were designed precisely so that we could grow in that faith, hope, and love as His disciples, constantly falling more deeply in love with Him, with His Father, and with Their Holy Spirit.

The heart of our relationship with the Lord Jesus is our **Worship**, especially during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, but also during those times of charismatic praise and worship that He has so gifted us with as a parish. When we focus on Him as the center of our worship, when we focus on the King and not on the storm, then we protect our hope, for we are focusing on its source.

The better we know Him, the better we can worship Him, which is why we have built an **Encounter** dimension into our pathway. So many people in the parish, youth and adults as well, have encountered Him in a variety of powerful ways in the past. However, the Lord Jesus never intends that our encounters with Him simply be part of our history—He intends that ongoing encounters with Him be in our present as well. It is never enough to look back and remember when I used to have powerful encounters with the Lord Jesus. Now is the time to have, even for the first time, or to enhance those encounters even more. No personal relationship in our life is going to thrive if it simply coasts on past encounters; that is especially true of our

*The various components of our Discipleship Pathway were designed precisely so that we could grow in ... faith, hope, and love as His disciples...*

Continued on page 6

# Our newest Sister Parish

*Strong support for adopting the Catholic Community of Flint*

by Bill Pressprich

If you are interested in helping with leading a team to support this effort, please email Bill Pressprich at [wpressprich@comcast.net](mailto:wpressprich@comcast.net).



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

**Thank you to all** who prayed about whether we should adopt the Catholic Community of Flint as a Sister Parish. The important final step in the discernment process was to consult with parishioners. We did that through a survey; 296 adult members responded, with 82% in favor.

### Comments received

Representative comments (paraphrased) that we received included:

- This is a wonderful idea; my family is interested in hearing even more ways we can support Flint.
- Great opportunity to contribute to racial reconciliation.
- Blessed opportunity for outreach and to assist in enriching lives of families and their children
- They are close enough so folks who want to can get involved.
- We will give additional money to support this effort.

- I believe God wants us looking outward, not on ourselves and our “first world problems.”
- Would love to be informed of volunteer opportunities.

Some “cautionary comments” included the following:

- I think partnering with other parishes would be better
- Do not think now is the right time to commit more resources and time
- Need to focus on taking care of families in the parish
- How does this fit into our calling as a parish?

We take these comments seriously; they highlight important issues to consider. We will keep them in mind as we move forward and periodically evaluate our relationship with Flint.

### Sister Parish defined

Sister Parish means:

1. We pray for them regularly.
2. We will take up a special collection each year to support their needs. This year, we will

target a minimum of \$20,000 to support the work of Sr. Christina Frey, SGL, who ministers to families and children in Flint’s poorest neighborhoods. We are currently planning to do this on Ash Wednesday.

3. We will make opportunities available for our parishioners to provide scholarships for kids to attend the Catholic schools in Flint.
4. We will explore other ways to become involved with parish life there.

### Next steps

- Identify a leader and team to support this effort.
- Set up a page on our website to publicize ways to serve, material needs, and contact information.
- Arrange fundraising opportunities to support scholarships for the Flint Catholic schools.

Thank you again for your generous response to our brothers and sisters in Flint.



Fr. Ed Fride is Pastor of Christ the King.

## “Lead, Kindly Light”

Continued from page 5

relationship with the King of Kings! In my experience, I found Alpha to be a great asset in that ongoing encounter with the Lord Jesus. I learned something in every session, and I found my encounter with Him definitely enhanced by the experience.

As we encounter Him, we must also choose to **Grow** in that rela-

tionship. While encounters tend to be special events, our growth must be fostered by a systematic and ongoing approach to discipleship. The end result of this process will be an enhanced opportunity to **Serve**, especially our families, our parish, and all those the King sends us.

**During these times**, when, in a certain sense “sin abounds,” we are reminded that “grace abounds all the more.” (Rom. 5:20) The King of Kings is more than capable of guiding and protecting us during these times! Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

# Christ the King 2019-2020 Financial Report

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

	2018	2019	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash & funds on deposit with Diocese	\$976,384	\$1,208,676	\$1,721,569
Accounts Receivable	3,298	-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$979,682</b>	<b>\$1,208,676</b>	<b>\$1,721,569</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$ 90,061	\$ 29,468	\$ 54,872
Notes Payable			136,800
Deferred revenues	944	7,866	5,417
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>91,005</b>	<b>37,334</b>	<b>197,089</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
With donor restrictions	626,989	786,125	1,074,414
Without donor restrictions	261,688	385,217	450,066
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>888,677</b>	<b>1,171,342</b>	<b>1,524,480</b>
<b>Total liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$979,682</b>	<b>\$1,208,676</b>	<b>\$1,721,569</b>

**Notes:**

Net assets with donor restrictions grew significantly as Witness to Hope payments were credited to our account at the Diocese.

**REGULAR GIVING**

The table below may assist you, along with your prayerful consideration, in determining the amount of your regular Sunday offering.

### Did you know?

- Christ the King currently has 855 registered households.
- Our average Sunday Mass attendance (adults and children) in October 2019 was 1,316.<sup>1</sup>
- Approximately 21% of our donations for the year are received in December. The remaining 79% comes in the other 11 months.
- 785 donors have accounts in Online Giving, an increase of 21% from the previous year.
- Almost 40% of our income was donated through Online Giving last year.

<sup>1</sup>October is the month that all parishes count Mass attendance for Diocesan records.

### INCOME VS. PROPORTIONAL GIVING

*Suggested Weekly Gift to Parish (rounded to the nearest \$ amount)*

annual household income	1%	5%	10%
\$ 10,000	\$ 2.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 19.00
\$ 15,000	\$ 3.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 29.00
\$ 20,000	\$ 4.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 38.00
\$ 25,000	\$ 5.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 48.00
\$ 30,000	\$ 6.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 58.00
\$ 35,000	\$ 7.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 67.00
\$ 40,000	\$ 8.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 77.00
\$ 50,000	\$ 10.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 96.00
\$ 60,000	\$ 12.00	\$ 58.00	\$ 115.00
\$ 70,000	\$ 13.00	\$ 67.00	\$ 135.00
\$ 80,000	\$ 15.00	\$ 77.00	\$ 154.00
\$ 90,000	\$ 17.00	\$ 87.00	\$ 173.00
\$ 100,000	\$ 19.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 192.00
\$ 120,000	\$ 23.00	\$ 115.00	\$ 231.00
\$ 150,000	\$ 29.00	\$ 144.00	\$ 288.00

# Christ the King 2019-2020 Financial Report

Continued from page 7

## REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

		Actual 2016	Actual 2017	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021
<b>Income</b>								
Regular Giving		\$ 1,295,355	\$ 1,327,008	\$ 1,309,099	\$ 1,449,837	\$ 1,464,200	\$ 1,408,467	\$ 1,464,400
Religious Education Tuition		20,155	21,444	18,992	19,209	20,700	18,249	20,700
Other Income		120,373	125,039	73,479	180,252	63,390	69,184	63,903
<b>Total income</b>		<b>\$ 1,435,883</b>	<b>\$ 1,473,491</b>	<b>\$ 1,401,570</b>	<b>\$ 1,649,298</b>	<b>\$ 1,548,290</b>	<b>\$ 1,495,900</b>	<b>\$ 1,549,003</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
Administration: Church	a.	389,479	419,626	445,530	383,835	409,556	417,294	530,290
Buildings & Grounds	b.	176,893	213,044	230,769	239,104	236,058	172,793	224,937
Capital Expenditures	c.	274,089	74,661	30,882	109,089	55,390	44,059	117,400
Worship	d.	207,387	206,808	196,323	209,513	219,522	258,909	231,283
School Subsidies	e.	181,063	178,650	207,110	182,101	182,500	170,402	182,500
Christian Service	f.	19,576	31,829	37,217	45,121	38,781	28,729	38,781
Parish Life	g.	17,049	42,053	25,525	18,825	9,600	9,671	13,100
Administration: Faith Formation	h.	4,451	10,506	7,660	12,018	24,299	13,871	15,718
Evangelization & RCIA	i.	3,115	20,885	73,562	89,699	105,233	82,081	97,754
Adult Education	j.	38,394	81,957	75,963	67,989	73,962	66,004	68,441
Pre-K - 6th Grade Religious Ed	k.	40,267	63,352	58,164	45,381	45,500	37,309	46,020
Youth Ministry & Confirmation prep	l.	84,249	120,712	122,737	123,098	130,802	129,927	133,499
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>\$ 1,436,012</b>	<b>\$ 1,464,083</b>	<b>\$ 1,511,442</b>	<b>\$ 1,525,773</b>	<b>\$ 1,531,203</b>	<b>\$ 1,431,049</b>	<b>\$ 1,699,723</b>
<b>Net Income over (under) expenses</b>		<b>\$ (129)</b>	<b>\$ 9,408</b>	<b>\$ (109,872)</b>	<b>\$ 123,525</b>	<b>\$ 17,087</b>	<b>\$ 64,851</b>	<b>\$ (150,720)</b>

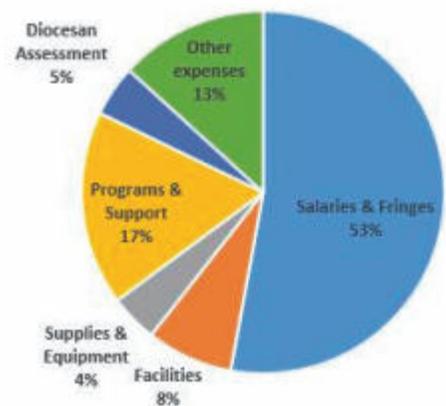
**Notes:**

- a. Includes priest & administrative staff, diocesan assessments, insurance, telephone & internet charges, office supplies, interest charges, banking fees.
- b. Includes staff and other costs incurred in maintaining the buildings, equipment and furnishings, snow removal, landscaping, gas, electric, and water.
- c. Includes new office construction (2015), annex purchase (2016), residing and reroofing parish center and rectory (2017 & 2018), windows and IT upgrades (2019).
- d. Includes staff and costs for support of liturgies and music.
- e. Aid for families to help with the cost of Catholic schools and homeschooling.
- f. Includes benevolent funds, and cost for other ministries.
- g. Includes various parish events, receptions, including coffee & donuts.
- h. Includes various costs to support religious education and evangelization efforts such as: clerical support staff, phones, supplies, printing.
- i. Includes staff and other costs to support evangelization efforts, including Alpha and RCIA.
- j. Includes staff and other costs support Adult Discipleship efforts, including Upper Room, the parish mission, and retreats.
- k. Includes staff and other costs to support Elementary religious education, includes Catechis of the Good Shepherd expenses.
- l. Includes staff and other costs to support Confirmation preparation, middle school and high school prayer meetings and retreats.

### Did you know?

- Our gas, electric, and water bills totaled about \$70,220 last year, \$3,700 less than the prior year.
- Our gas and electric bill last February (just before the pandemic hit) was over \$6,700.
- It costs about \$35,000 to insure the parish for property and liability.

### 2020 EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



Continued on page 9

# Christ the King 2019-2020 Financial Report

Continued from page 8

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Archdiocese for Military Services	\$	4,756
Bethlehem Sister Parish	\$	10,772
Uganda Sister Parish	\$	750
Ugandan Seminarians	\$	1,250
Mary's Mantle	\$	25
Catholic Community of Flint	\$	10,018
Jewish Synagogue	\$	438
Worldwide Evangelization Appeal	\$	570
Home Mission-Black & Native American	\$	942
Peter's Pence	\$	2,687
American Evangelization (Help Spread the Faith)	\$	1,285
World Mission Sunday-Propagation of the Faith	\$	863
Retired Religious	\$	5,781
DSA	\$	126,397
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>161,778</b>

The amount given for special collections shows that 10% of donations are going to support other charities.

## DIOCESAN SUPPORT

Our parish financially supports the Diocese of Lansing primarily in two ways. First, through the Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA). Second, through an assessment based on contributions made to the parish in the previous year. The assessment is levied in two pieces: a regular assessment and a special assessment for priests' retirement.

Year	DSA	Regular Assessment	Priests Retirement Assessment
2015	\$ 110,314	\$ 48,562	\$ 6,147
2016	\$ 127,884	\$ 53,181	\$ 8,415
2017	*	\$ 54,821	\$ 10,409
2018	\$ 112,206	\$ 57,082	\$ 10,838
2019	\$ 120,336	\$ 54,080	\$ 10,268
2020	\$ 126,397	\$ 54,091	\$ 11,298

*\*In anticipation of the Witness to Hope Campaign the diocese did not have a DSA in 2017.*

If you have any questions about parish finances, please contact Director of Operations Ken Bogan (734-929-0989 or kbogan@ctkcc.net).



*The primary purpose of charitable giving is to support the Church and other charitable causes, not to obtain tax benefits. Nonetheless, it is important to understand how your giving may be affected by changes in the tax law ...*



Dennis Mitzel is a founding member of Christ the King and currently serves as chair of the Finance Council. He is an estate planning attorney with Mitzel Law Group PLC and a frequent speaker on estate planning and charitable giving topics.

## Charitable giving and the New Tax Act

*Charitable planning is very different for those under or over age 70 ½*

by Dennis Mitzel

*Editor's note: This article first appeared in the December 2018 issue of The Open Door.*

**The primary purpose** of charitable giving is to support the Church and other charitable causes, not to obtain tax benefits. Nonetheless, it is important to understand how your giving may be affected by changes in the tax law in order to take advantage of any tax deductions associated with your charitable gifts.

Charitable planning is very different for those under or over age 70 ½.

### **Under Age 70 ½: Change in Standard Deduction**

One of the biggest changes in the new act was the doubling of the standard deduction. This means that there is no need to track itemized deductions unless total deductions exceed the new standards: \$12,000 for singles and married couples filing separately, \$18,000 for heads of households, and \$24,000 for married couples filing jointly.

This change in the standard deduction does not affect:

- People who formerly claimed the standard deduction.
- Those who have made extremely large charitable gifts and are well beyond the new standard deduction level.

The law can affect, however, those who itemized under the old law, but whose deductions will now fall near or below the higher standard deduction limit. There are options for these people to consider:

**1) Continue Current Pattern of Charitable Giving** Most individuals will likely continue their current pattern of giving and not worry about the impact of the new law.

**2) Bunch Charitable Gifts** Some may bunch their charitable giving so as to make two or three years' worth of gifts in a single year. By concentrating the gifts in one year, they can itemize in that year and use the standard deduction in the alternate years.

**One of the practical** considerations of bunching is that the donor must have the funds available at the end of the bunching year in order to prepay the following year's planned contributions. This issue can sometimes be addressed by using gifts of securities rather than cash. This has the added advantage of providing a charitable deduction without having to recognize any capital gain.

Some may prefer to bunch their gifts in one year but still have the payments spread out over time. One technique that can address this issue is the use of a donor-advised fund,

that is, a fund which allows a contribution to be made in one year but allows those funds to be redistributed to charity over time as requested by the donor. Donor-advised funds are operated by many institutions including the Catholic Foundation of Michigan (Archdiocese of Detroit), The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Lansing (soon), and most financial institutions.

### **Over Age 70 ½: Dramatic New Opportunities**

Individuals who are over 70 ½ and have IRAs have a great opportunity under the charitable rollover rules. Individuals age 70 ½ or older may transfer funds directly from their IRAs to a charitable organization without needing to report the withdrawal as taxable income. This will give them a 100% reduction in income for their gifts, whereas they might not have received any benefit for a direct cash gift. This benefit is so dramatic that most individuals over 70 ½ should be making all charitable contributions from their IRAs.

Individuals interested in learning how the new tax law affects their own situation should discuss these issues with their own tax advisor or financial planner.

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**

- 12/8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception; Parish Offices closed
- 12/11, 18: Upper Room
- 12/24, 25: Christmas; Parish Offices closed
- 12/28-30: Encounter Satellite Conference; Parish Offices closed
- 12/31, 1/2: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; Parish Offices closed

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov. 29	30	Dec. 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	Jan. 1	2



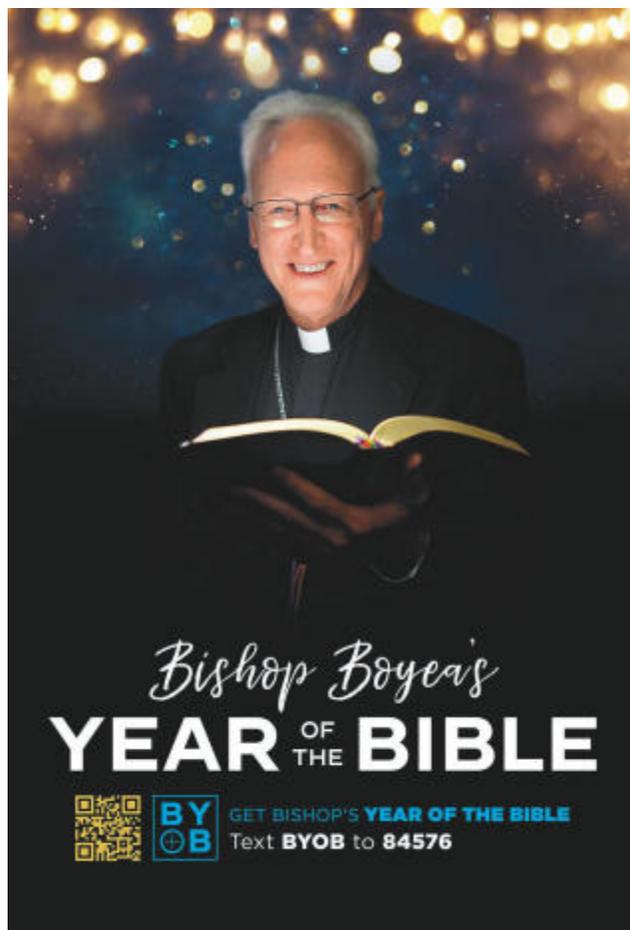
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### Coming in future issues...

- New initiatives
- Parishioner profiles

Look for this and more in future issues of

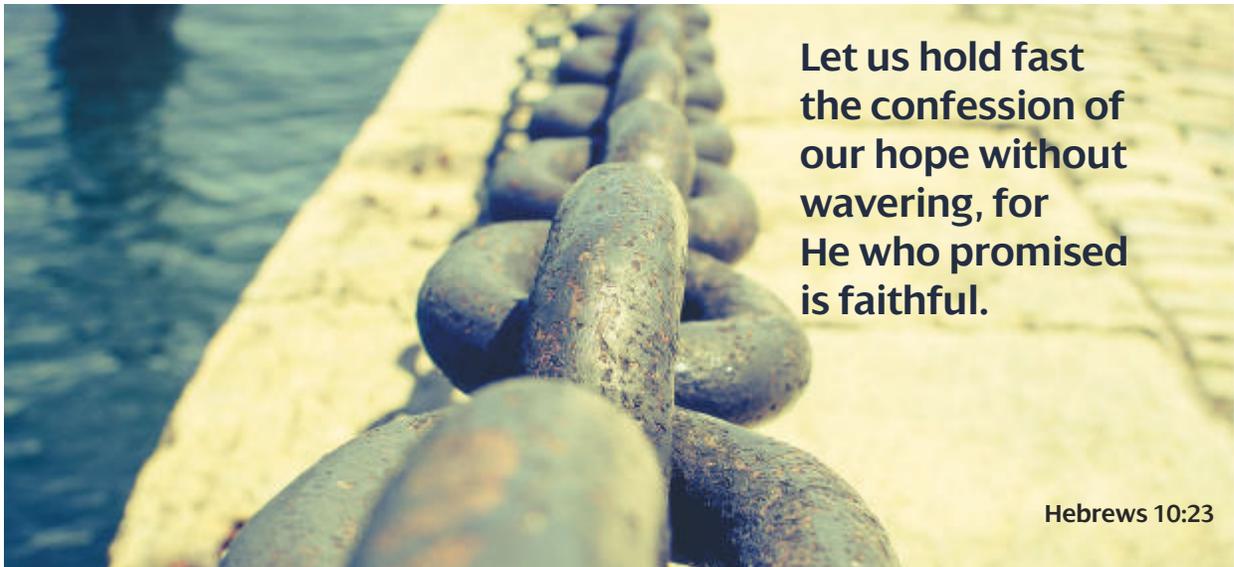
# The Open Door

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

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



Let us hold fast  
the confession of  
our hope without  
wavering, for  
He who promised  
is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23