

PROCLAIM

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MAGAZINE

JULY 2021 | VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 1



Inspired

Father Rich reflects on 10 years of witnessing the power of God's love

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to our new parish magazine, *Proclaim!* We first started talking about this project over a year ago because we wanted to share all the ways that God is moving in our parish. It is so inspiring when we share our stories. We also wanted to launch this project because we recognize what a great tool for invitation and evangelization it could be.

We hope that you enjoy this magazine. Then we hope that you pass it on or get another copy (or two!) and share it with loved ones and friends. Within these pages, people will tell how Jesus has changed their lives, and why and how we live our faith.

How appropriate that we launch this new endeavor on our 10th anniversary as Christ the King Parish. I have heard it said that most people underestimate what you can accomplish in a year, and overestimate what you can accomplish in three years. I will tell you that 10 years ago, I never dreamed that we would have closed and sold two churches, physically merged our community onto one campus, celebrated Christmas and Easter in a performing arts center,

worshiped in a tent for the summer and completed a major renovation of St. John the Evangelist church. And that's just talking about our physical journey!

In that same 10 years, we have had almost 500 people go through Alpha and baptized 480 souls. We have journeyed with 535 disciples who have received Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time and 697 have been sealed with the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. We have distributed over 400,000 meals through our Food Pantry and journeyed with over 100 people through Stephen Ministries. In the past year, we have done it all through a global pandemic. The Holy Spirit animates us and empowers us to do things we never thought possible. Never underestimate what God can do!

I would like to close by saying that it was not my idea to be the first feature for *Proclaim*. I had to be convinced by some pretty persuasive staff members. However, my story here is really the story of all of you. As your pastor, I am continuously humbled and inspired to see Jesus in all of you. He is the real hero of the story, of my story and ultimately

of all our stories. Jesus is alive! The same Jesus that was crucified on that cross over 2,000 years ago is now feeding the hungry, both physically and spiritually, here in Concord, New Hampshire. He's walking with the discouraged and mourning. His Spirit is calling out your gifts and challenging you to put them to use furthering his Kingdom. Our King is alive and he reigns. Alleluia!

Yours in Christ,

Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge is the pastor at Christ the King Parish.

Graham

Roth

CELEBRATE YOUR BAPTISM DAY



Stock

Allow me to introduce myself and *Catholic Cue*! My name is Jen Albee and I am the Coordinator for Young Disciples at Christ the King Parish. I have been working for the parish since 2020 and have been a member of the Christ the King for many years. I live with my husband, Andrew, and our four boys in Pembroke.

Our family strongly believes in the fact that the Catholic faith is a way of life and Jesus must be infused into everything we do. *Catholic Cue* gives families practical ways to live out the faith at home. The more we practice our faith within our families, the better equipped we are to go out into the world and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

When thinking of where I should start for this first issue of *Proclaim*, I thought, “Let’s start at the very beginning, a very good place to start.” Let us start with Baptism.

If you’re reading this and you are a parent, I want you to go back to the day you had your baby baptized. Maybe you are like my family and you made it an event! You dressed your baby in

a beautiful, heirloom baptismal gown or a suit shipped in from the fine designers at Amazon Prime. Family and friends came and gathered around the baptismal font as the priest or deacon poured holy water over your baby’s head. Perhaps you got a little nervous when your baby cried as the water unexpectedly ran over their little head. “Ah! This baby is destined to sing in the choir!” jokes the priest. You felt relieved and chuckled as you held your baby close to you and snuggled them, wiping some of the water from their head and inhaling the sweet, earthy scent of the sacred chrism oil, with which they had been anointed.

When thinking of my children’s baptism days, I call to mind, especially, the promises my husband and I made for ourselves and these little souls. And as we left the church that day, we knew we had just added another member to this beautiful Church of ours and now it was time to go home and celebrate this momentous occasion with our family and friends.

I now invite you to celebrate this momentous occasion every year!

You celebrate your child’s birth every year, why not celebrate the day they were “reborn as a child of God”? Find out the date of their baptism and break out their baptismal candle (if you cannot find it, any candle will do). Light the candle, have them renew their baptismal promises, and then bless them with holy water. Do this for every member of your family on their own respective Baptism Day! It’s a sweet, simple way to recognize the day you began your new life in Christ. ♦



Lomanno

Jen Albee is the Coordinator for Young Disciples at Christ the King Parish.

COME ALIVE

Exploring the Faith We Profess

This spring, in preparation for the coming of our first baby, my husband, Andrew, and I sorted through our bookshelves, hoping to trim back our book collection to make room for all the new baby furniture and accessories. We are both lovers of reading and have a hard time passing up a good book, so it was a project!

As we worked our way through our collection of fantasy novels, engineering textbooks, Bibles, self-improvement works, and more, I came across two thin books both entitled “Introduction to Catholic Theology.” As I held them in my hand, my memory gears began winding and suddenly I was back in college holding these two little books that had just come in the mail.

I went to a Protestant Christian college where I studied Christian Ministries, Biblical Studies, and Psychology. I arrived at college with a fairly stereotypical Catholic upbringing. I had received a basic understanding of Catholic theology from the Catholic schools I had attended, semi-consistent Mass attendance, and the occasional youth ministry event.

In my mind, without realizing, I had become a “cafeteria Catholic.” I was guilty of picking and choosing the Catholic theology that I liked, the pieces that made sense to me and dismissing, or, at times, vehemently disagreeing with the rest.

In my new college environment, I was a religious minority, if you will. While there were other Catholics at the school, I was the only one in my department at that time. I found myself sitting through Protestant theology classes where the theology sounded different from what I had heard growing up.

More than that, I found myself the “token Catholic;” my classmates turned to me any time a question regarding Catholic theory or practice came up. Many of them had never encountered a practicing Catholic, and believe me they had questions. And I was completely unprepared!

“Why do Catholics pray to saints instead of praying to Jesus directly? Why would we baptize an infant who cannot possibly be choosing to follow Christ? Is Catholic Confirmation the same thing as Protestant baptism? Isn’t having a statue of Mary breaking the 10 Commandments? Why don’t Catholics know their Bibles?”

Each day, it became clearer that I did not know the faith I practiced and professed. I had nothing to offer them and nothing to offer myself in those moments of doubt.

This experience changed me. I stopped being okay with not knowing what I believed. So, I started in the simplest way I could think of: I bought two well-reviewed introductions to Catholic theology on Amazon.

Since that time, my library has grown and my heart has come alive with a passion for exploring what Catholics do not know about Catholicism. This passion has only increased in my time at Christ the King Parish, and I am delighted to have this space to explore our beautiful faith.

In this column, you are invited to submit any and all questions you have about Catholicism, and we can learn the things we don’t know about the Catholic faith together.

You may not know where to find answers to the questions that weigh on your heart, or you may feel like you have nothing left to learn about this faith. Wherever you find yourself today, let us stop simply accepting – or rejecting – muddled, mediocre, and misunderstood theology.

Let us be a people who know what we believe and why we believe it! It is only then that our faith can truly come alive. ♦



Haley Judd is the Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King Parish.

I would love to have you submit your questions about the Catholic faith! Email parish@christthekingnh.org with the subject line “Come Alive.”



Graham

Inspired

Father Rich reflects on 10 years of witnessing the power of God's love

by Michael Clark | Photography by Charlene Graham

Father Rich never thought that he would be assigned to Concord. Before being assigned here in 2010, Concord was a place he had associated with the city's skyline as seen from I-93 while driving by. It was a place he knew about, but not a place to which he had a personal connection. Now, he has hundreds, if not thousands, of personal connections in this city. And that is what it all comes down to for Father Rich: personal stories of faith that witness to him the power of God's love.

The people of this city and this

parish inspire him in countless ways. "Watching someone's face radiate the love of Jesus as I anoint them on their deathbed... it often moves me to tears," Father Rich reflects. Over the past 10 years, Father Rich has had that privilege many times. However, the inspiration isn't always from moments so dramatic. Many times, it comes from the dedicated, often thankless work that volunteers do week after week, year after year, in the service of others.

Whether it be the volunteers at the Food Pantry or witnesses

standing up for the sanctity of life, Father Rich is inspired by their selfless acts of love and their reliance on their faith in Jesus. "There are so many people in this community that draw strength from their faith to do great things, in what some might call small acts of service, over the course of years," he says.

A couple who exemplifies this for Father Rich is Mike and Susie Jenkins, founders of Epilogos, a ministry that serves our sister parish, and their village, in El Salvador. "They are a wonderful example of people who draw others into the love of Jesus, without drawing attention to themselves," he says.

A highlight from the past 10 years for Father Rich was his trip to San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador, in 2016 to celebrate Mike and Susie's 50th wedding anniversary. There, he saw the great suffering of the poor, but he also saw the fruit of the great love that Mike and Susie had for those people, along with the countless volunteers who have traveled there from Concord, New Hampshire, over the past 15 years.

While inspired by the lasting service of dedicated ministries that existed before his time here as pastor, Father Rich has also been moved by new ministries that have come to be, such as the Hospitality Ministry. This started out as a means of making Mass more physically accessible and comfortable during the summer of 2019, when Mass was said in a tent while renovations to the church building were being done.

Father Rich remembers, "The parish's time in the tent could have been a great challenge, but instead was a great success due in large part to the work of the Hospitality Ministry, which continued when the church reopened." The Hospitality Ministry's mission is



“to provide a safe and welcoming environment so that all may experience the love of Christ.”

During the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the ministry, along with our ushers, certainly lived out that mission. For those first few weeks of returning to public Mass in June 2020, when everyone felt strange worshipping in assigned seats and wearing a mask, the ministry volunteers’ welcoming eyes and warm greetings helped to make one feel a little better about it.

Of course, we cannot talk about his time here as pastor without talking about the merger. Father Rich knew when he arrived that part of his job was the consolidation of the three parishes into one. To that end, a Future Planning Committee was formed. This committee was made up of representatives from all three former parishes: St. John the Evangelist, Sacred Heart, and St. Peter.

Father Rich remembers this committee as the “best group I ever worked with. Their faith and dedication was an example of a spirit I observed in many of the people I met from all three parishes.” The work of bringing

three parishes into one brought along with it a great deal of heartache.

Overall, Father Rich was touched by the kindness and receptivity of the people who belonged to the parishes. They were “focused on faith,” realizing that as much as it seemed that an end had come, a new beginning had also come, and they were willing to look forward to what the future held.

Since the merger, Christ the King Parish has undertaken a journey of renewal, recommitting itself to the mission that Jesus gave to us in Matthew 28:19-20. “The ultimate goal of all of the parish’s work over the recent years,” says Father Rich, “is for parishioners to become ‘missionary disciples’, going out into the wider community and telling others, through their example as people of faith, of the great love that God has for them, and of the tremendous joy that a life in the Church can bring.”

Father Rich sees this mission lived out in the lives of so many of our parishioners; for example, Nate Mullen, who as a child of seven or eight would often approach Father Rich after Mass to talk about the day’s homily. “I saw that Nate was connected to God in

a way that was quite remarkable.” Today, Nate helps to lead the parish’s Encounter program for youth and is a witness to the love that Christ has for them.

Something that Father Rich describes as a “game changer” in the effort to become more missionary as a parish is Alpha. “Alpha has really helped people find a new enthusiasm in their relationship with Jesus and to grow further in their faith,” Father Rich says. “It’s been a privilege to see how many leaders have emerged from this resurgence of faith and engagement in the parish. These leaders have really taken ownership of the critical parts they play in the overall mission of the parish.”

A lot has happened since the days when Concord was, from Father Rich’s perspective, the skyline he would pass by on I-93. No longer does he see the city in such an impersonal way. Now, it is the home to so many disciples who have witnessed to him the love of Jesus. Here, he knows that the Holy Spirit is moving in great and powerful ways. Here, if the parishioners of Christ the King Parish have anything to do about it, Jesus Christ reigns. ♦

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2021

July 5: 4th of July Observed

The parish office will be closed in observance of the 4th of July.

July 7: Monthly Adoration

CTK Men's Ministry hosts an adoration hour on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the church. All are welcome to come spend some time with our Lord.

July 10: Men's Ministry

All men are welcome to come together for coffee and conversation! We meet in the IHM room on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month, every month at 8:00 AM. Please bring a mask and a morning drink of choice. For more information, contact Ken Roth at menofctk@gmail.com.

July 12: Young Adult Summer Bible Study

When: Begins Monday, July 12, until Monday, August 2
Time: 7:00-8:00 PM
Where: Rollins Park
(In case of rain, the group will meet in the IHM Room)
Contact Haley Judd for more information haley@christthekingnh.org

AUGUST 2021



August 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Assumption Day commemorates

when Mary "the immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory." (CCC 966)

August 19-21: Market Days

Come visit the Christ the King and St. John Regional School tent this summer at Concord Market Days. Stop by the booth to say hello and enjoy doing a craft.

SEPTEMBER 2021

September 6: Labor Day

The parish office will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

September 13: Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult Ministry is for those in their 20s and 30s looking to explore the Catholic faith in fellowship with their peers through intentional community, bible studies, and more! For more information, contact Haley Judd at haley@christthekingnh.org.

September 16: Alpha Begins

Alpha meets every Thursday from 6:00-8:30 PM for 12 weeks. There will be in-person and Zoom options. All are welcome to attend and no questions are off the table. For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/alpha.

September 17 & 19: Emmaus

Stay tuned for Emmaus 2021-2022. We are planning to gather in person this fall. Mark your calendars!

September 17: Women's Ministry Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will have in-person & Zoom options. Join us as we explore the core questions that we need to wrestle with if we want to experience all that God has for us. To join the women's

ministry contact list, email ctkwwp20@gmail.com.

September 25: Harvest Bazaar

Come for fun, fellowship, and fresh air at this year's outside event including a flea market, country store, raffles, baking table, and so much more!



September 29: Michaelmas

Today is the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. Saint Michael is known for fighting Satan and casting him into Hell. Saint Gabriel is known in the bible for appearing to Mary at the annunciation to tell her that she was going to have baby Jesus. Saint Raphael is known for being a healer and is mentioned in the book of Tobit.

MONTHLY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

July 3 & 4:

Food Pantry (Parish)

July 10 & 11:

Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

Mission Co-op: Brothers of the Sacred Heart (Diocesan)

July 17 & 18:

Maintenance (Parish)

Parish to Parish Support Fund (Diocesan)

July 24 & 25:

no special collection

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 72 South Main Street
 Concord, NH 03301
 603.224.2328
www.christthekingnh.org



Weekend Masses
 Saturday: 4:00 PM
 Sunday: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM,
 11:00 AM

Weekday Masses
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday:
 12:10 PM
 Thursday: 5:30 PM

Confession Times
 Thursday: 4:45-5:15 PM
 Saturday: 2:30-3:30 PM

Pastor:
 Father Rich Roberge
frrich@christthekingnh.org

Deacon:
 Deacon Winton DeRosia
deaconwinton@christthekingnh.org

Director of Parish Life:
 Angie Glendinning
angie@christthekingnh.org

Business Manager:
 Charlie Burr
charlie@christthekingnh.org

Communications Coordinator:
 Sarah Jane Roth
sarahjane@christthekingnh.org

Bookkeeper:
 Liz Geary
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Coordinator of Adult Discipleship:
 Haley Judd
haley@christthekingnh.org

Coordinator for Young Disciples:
 Jen Albee
jen@christthekingnh.org

Facilitator of Parishioner Engagement:
 Jill Galvin
jill@christthekingnh.org

Parish Secretary:
 Kathy Planchet
kathy@christthekingnh.org

MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

	5/16/21	5/23/21	5/30/21	6/6/21
Envelopes	\$7,082.00	\$7,543.00	\$10,649.00	\$8,410.00
Online	\$9,411.00	\$6,134.00	\$6,727.00	\$6,786.00
Other	\$2,347.41	\$964.00	\$113.00	\$670.00
Total	\$18,840.41	\$14,641.00	\$17,489.00	\$15,866.00
<i>Special Collection</i>	\$321.00			\$1,104.00

ONLINE GIVING

For more information on the parish's online giving program, visit christthekingnh.org/give or call Liz Geary at the parish office, **603.224.2328**.

ENVELOPES

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Comfort Caller

June McCann tells us about her experience reaching out to parishioners through the Phone Outreach Ministry

By Emily Planchet | Photography by Will Judd

Comforting the sorrowful is well known as a Spiritual Work of Mercy. When COVID-19 hit in Spring of 2020, it was hard to find anyone who wasn't in need of a little comfort. Suddenly, those living by themselves or far from family found themselves very much alone, with not even the sacraments to console them.

It was at this time of uncertainty that June McCann accepted the invitation to become a member of the newly formed Phone Outreach Ministry as a "Comfort Caller." Starting soon after the lockdown, June and the other members of the ministry were given a list of people in their 80s and later in their 70s.

Their mission: to call, provide a listening ear, and determine if the recipient was in need of anything – such as light housework, shopping, or even just a roll of stamps. Sometimes the calls were easy, but at other times, recipients would share their uncertainties about the future, the pain of recently losing a spouse, or fears about a new medical diagnosis. With each call, June strove to be compassionate, patient, and open to the Holy Spirit.

Despite such difficulties, as she reflects on her experience, June feels only gratitude at witnessing the faith of those she spoke with, a faith that influenced her

own spiritual life as well. "The people I was talking to were also ministering to me," June said. It was most striking to her that – even when people had lost so much – it was the sacraments that they missed the most. "There was a yearning and a desire for the Eucharist that I thought was amazing," she said. Through her participation in the Phone Ministry, June was humbled to see how God was still at work among his people. "This whole pandemic could either throw you for a loop or you would be overwhelmingly transformed by it," she said, "because you see the resiliency of the Body of Christ."

June's increased appreciation for the Body of Christ permeates everything. While she has made over 550 calls since the ministry began, June would be the first to tell you that it was those who organized the ministry, the other callers, and the volunteers who provide the services that has made their work so successful. "They are an amazing group of people," she emphasizes. "Everybody is just a conduit of the Holy Spirit."

While the end of the pandemic may be in sight, June is hopeful that the ministry will continue. "I feel very lucky to have the church we do," she says, speaking of her gratitude to be a part of such a ministry. "It's a grace to be at Christ the King." ♦

PHONE OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Phone Outreach Ministry is for parishioners, friends, family, or neighbors who are homebound for any reason and interested in being called once a week. You will receive a call at your preferred time and day for a friendly chat or daily prayer. If you are interested in receiving a call or you would like to participate as a caller, contact the parish office **603.224.2328**.



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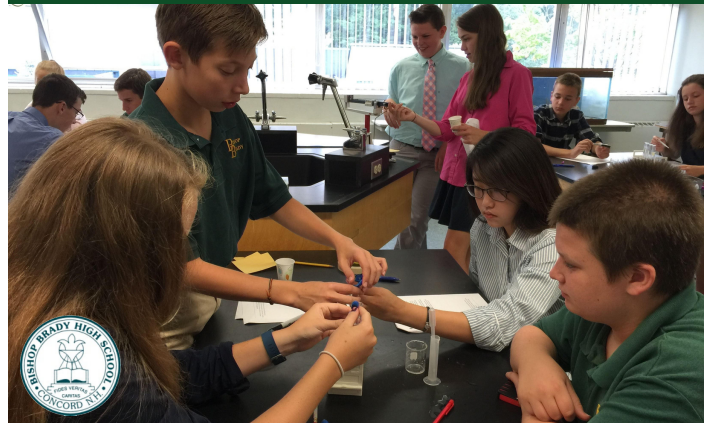

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Alpha

