

PROCLAIM

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 3



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School

After-Generation

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Dear Friends,

As you receive this September issue of *Proclaim*, I am excited to announce that we will be mailing out the monthly magazine four times a year: March, June, September, and December! Please join me in thanking our advertisers for their ongoing support; Sarah Jane, our Communications Coordinator and *Proclaim* designer; the volunteer team of writers, photographers, editors, and proofreaders; and our fellow parishioners who have shared their faith stories and wisdom.

As September ushers in a new school year, we extend a warm welcome to Stephen Daigle, the new principal of St. John Regional School. Steve is originally from Rhode Island. He worked for a while in Florida and more recently was a principal in Massachusetts. We also extend a welcome to his wife, Jessica, two children, Maddie and Levi, and their dog, Rhody (all pictured above). Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself and welcome them to our faith

community.

Catechetical Sunday is on Sunday, September 17, and is a day in which we celebrate the passing on of our faith. We recognize our catechists and teachers, who support parents and families in the faith formation of our children and youth.

In his article in "The Catholic Miscellany," Dr. Mike Martocchio from the Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina, speaks to the word "catechesis." This word comes from the Greek term "*katakhezein*" which means to teach orally. What better place to practice this concept of passing on our faith than at home with our families? Prayer, the rosary, time spent in quiet – even just a few minutes before everyone sits down to eat dinner together – offer real opportunities to bring Jesus into our lives.

Catechesis, however, does not only apply to those people with families. All of us are called to deepen our faith and love of God, and to remember our part in sharing our faith in the world. It is

in the ways we act towards others – our kindness, our humility, and our caring for each other – that we can pass on our faith each day. Catechesis, or faith formation, can be done in the classroom but also out in the world. What matters is that we continue to learn about our faith and be willing and open to pass on to others what it means to each of us.

Yours in Christ,

Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge, Pastor of Christ the King Parish

Music Shapes Us



Freepik

A while back, I wrote about how my family tries to be intentional with the music we listen to. I was reflecting on this concept once again, and I came upon a few profound thoughts by some heavy hitting people such as Aristotle, Plato, Shakespeare, Victor Hugo, and even Saint Augustine. But it was Roman statesman and philosopher, Boethius, whose succinct quote really struck me: “Music can both establish and destroy morality. For no path is more open to the soul for the formation thereof than through the ears.” Whoa! If we were to truly subscribe to this philosophy, then we all ought to take extra care with what music we’re listening to.

Recently, I was in my car and I didn’t like either of the songs playing on the two Christian radio stations I always toggle between, so I switched over to a country music station. George Strait’s southern drawl flowed from the speakers and without hesitation or thought, I joyfully began singing his song from 1995 word for word! I hadn’t heard this song in ages, but I grew up on country music. My grandparents always had country

music playing on their old radio in the kitchen, and that is one of my fondest memories from childhood. It’s amazing how music can evoke certain emotions and stick with you forever.

Playing from the speaker in our own kitchen right now is: “I’m a child of the most high God and the most High God’s for me...” Days ago, my youngest son and I were outside playing cards and he suddenly started singing, “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face...” My oldest son sets his alarm clock/radio to the local Christian radio station, so whether he wakes up to the DJ or to a Christian song, the first thing he hears is Christ centered. The other day, I stopped by our friends’ house and their two youngest kiddos were singing the “Holy, Holy, Holy” from the Mass as they played in their living room. There have been countless times when my boys and I are in the car together and we’re all belting out a praise and worship song.

These are musical memories my children are creating. I like to think that sometime in the future perhaps they’ll be driving in their

car and they’ll turn on a Christian radio station and know every word. And in that moment, regardless of what season of life they’re in, their hearts will be drawn heavenward.

Music moves us and shapes us in ways we might not even realize. Research has shown that listening to music can reduce anxiety, blood pressure, and pain, as well as improve sleep quality, mood, mental alertness, and memory. If it can do all that, imagine what music that praises and glorifies God can do for your soul! So...what are you listening to? ♦



Lomanno

Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King

Is the Pope Infallible?

Nowadays, papal infallibility is perhaps more often misunderstood than it is understood. Both within the Church and in the secular world, this teaching is a point of contention. And understandably so, because when misunderstood, it can present a dangerous ideology. Today, we will strive to pull back the veil on papal infallibility and thereby grow in our comprehension of this Catholic “hot topic.”

To begin, let’s clarify our terms. The Oxford Dictionary defines infallible with the phrases “inability to be wrong” and “the incapability of error.” And of course, papal refers to the pope of the Catholic Church. From here, we should define what papal infallibility is not. It is essential to understand that infallibility does not mean the absence of sin. The pope, along with all other Church leaders, is a broken human being, very much capable of sin. In addition, papal infallibility does not encompass all that the pope says and does. In other words, not everything the pope teaches is infallible.

So when, if ever, is the pope infallible? The pope is only capable of speaking infallibly on matters of faith and morals. But there’s more! As Matt Fradd states on *Pints with Aquinas*: “The pope is not always infallible, even when speaking on faith and morals. To speak infallibly, the pope must talk with the fullness of his authority and to the whole Church and make it clear that he’s pronouncing a definite teaching.... He’s not infallible when speaking as a private theologian or as the bishop of the Diocese of Rome.... In this case, he may teach authoritatively, but not infallibly.”

In fact, there have only been two instances when a pope has professed an infallible teaching! These teachings are given the name “*ex cathedra*” (meaning “from the chair”). Kevin Considine, writing for US Catholic in an article entitled “Is there a list of infallible teachings?,” explains: “*Ex cathedra* is the theological term for a teaching that has been declared infallibly by the [pope]. In short, *ex cathedra* means that the pope can explicate an article of divine revelation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in full possession of his role as Peter’s successor. When he does so, he is protected from error.” Both *ex cathedra* teachings are about Mary: “Her Immaculate Conception (declared by Pope Pius IX in 1854 and grandfathered in after the First Vatican Council’s declaration of papal infallibility in 1870) and her bodily Assumption into heaven (declared by Pope Pius XII in 1950).” (Considine, US Catholic)

The theology of infallibility itself extends from the doctrine of apostolic succession, which professes that the bishops of today are in a direct lineage from the apostles of Jesus and entrusted with protecting and proclaiming His teachings. The two doctrines proclaimed infallible by the popes were not invented at those times by those individuals; they were long-held and defended traditions of the Church.

While there are only two instances of the pope declaring something infallible, this does not necessarily mean those are the only infallible teachings of the Church. Once again, Mr. Considine has wisdom

to share as he explains: “According to [the 1998 ‘Commentary on the Concluding Formula of the *Professio fidei*’ issued by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger], many teachings are ‘irreformable’ and ‘definitive’ and as such can be seen as possessing the binding quality of an infallible doctrine, although not necessarily proclaimed *ex cathedra*. That is, they aren’t promulgated by the pope himself but by the larger magisterium of the church. The lineup of ‘irreformable’ teachings – ones divinely revealed – include those regarding Jesus, Mary, sin and grace, the sacraments, the primacy of the pope, and the doctrinal formulations of the ancient creeds. The lineup of ‘definitive’ teachings on faith and morals – ones the Church holds to be logically derived from divine revelation – include teachings such as the doctrine of papal infallibility, the immorality of abortion and euthanasia, the communion of saints, and others.”

As we grow in our understanding of the teaching authority of our Church and its leaders, perhaps the most important thing for us to remember is that the Holy Spirit is guiding it all. God never ceases to lead His Church. ♦



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King

Have questions about another topic within Catholicism?
Send them anytime to parish@christthekingnh.org.



Back to *School*

What makes a good Catholic school principal? Though there may be many answers to this question, the ability to communicate and to remain calm in any situation, a deep love of God, and a desire to serve others would most likely rank high on the list. Luckily for St. John Regional School (SJRS), their new principal, Stephen Daigle, has certainly gained these qualities through his expansive, though sometimes unconventional, work experience.

Growing up in a Catholic family in a small Rhode Island town, Steve knew that he wanted to help others. After getting his undergraduate degree in psychology, his first job was through a Rhode Island hospital working with children diagnosed with autism. It was here that Steve was able to gain a particular skill with communication. His job was to spend his days taking these children, many of whom

were nonverbal or had a plethora of behavioral issues, through daily routines. Going to the park, swimming, or other fun activities – things most would take for granted – required intense work, but resulted in them experiencing the childhood that they deserved. Suffice to say, the experience was illuminating and taught him things he never imagined. “You really developed a skill on how to communicate with people,” Steve says. “I learned more from working with those kids than I ever did in any grad school class.”

As an adult, Steve reconnected with his childhood friend and high school sweetheart, Jessica. They were married in 2012. After muddling through two years of terrible winter storms, they decided to seek better weather, and quite a different job, down in Florida. This time, Steve was an EMT and his “office” was the emergency room of a Level

2 Trauma Center, working alongside his wife, a nurse. Every day, helicopters would bring in the injured, often on the brink of death. As you would no doubt imagine, it was a fast-paced environment that required snap judgements and quick thinking. “It was the biggest adrenaline rush you could ever have,” Steve remembers. His biggest satisfaction came from knowing that through his help, lives were being saved every day.

While he loved his job, the birth of their first child prompted serious questions about the future. More than anything else, Steve knew he and his wife wanted their children to have the best education, a Catholic education, and they knew it wouldn’t be financially attainable in their current positions. So, Steve hung up his stethoscope and went back to school – this time getting a degree in Education Administration. Soon after, he

got a position as a grade 5-8 Math teacher at a local Catholic school, quickly moving up to become an assistant principal.

Eventually, once their own children became old enough to be able to learn how to ski and skate, the Daigles knew it was time to come back to New England. Steve took a position at Mary of the Annunciation School in Danvers, Massachusetts. He had a tremendous experience there, and yet the Daigles still didn't feel quite settled. The competitive housing market and the desire to be even closer to nature compelled him to search for a job further north. When Steve came upon the open position at SJRS, it felt like everything fell into place.

His family had already become acquainted with New Hampshire through many days skiing in Sunapee, but before they decided to make the final move, they wanted to make sure they could finally settle in a place that felt like home. "We took several weekends up in Concord to make sure we liked it," Steve says. What stuck out to them the most was the way the Catholic community saturated the town, just as it had in his and his wife's childhood. "Everywhere we go we run into someone who's connected to St. John's or Christ the King," he explains. "That's the mentality of the town we grew up in and we like it." Everything they saw seemed to draw them to New Hampshire – including the natural environment. "We love the mountains, we love hiking, we love being outdoors," Steve says. "Even in Concord you could drive ten minutes down the road and be in the middle of nowhere. To me, that's God's Country."

Now that Steve and his family have navigated the long and winding path to SJRS, he's ready to start off strong by demonstrating one of most important qualities of a principal – a love of God and the Catholic faith. Growing up, Steve

wasn't always aware of the importance of things like prayer and the Mass. "I just went through the motions," Steve says. "Until I became an adult, I didn't realize how valuable being a Catholic was."

Now, though, in addition to the importance of academics, he hopes all the students will take advantage of the kind of knowledge that isn't limited to a grade level. "Learning how to add and subtract is one year, learning to read is one year, but the power of prayer is with you for your whole life," Steve says. "It's there through your struggles and your celebrations. It's something that's always with you. But just like everything else, you have to practice it."

Conversely, he hopes this love of God will also translate to a love of school as well. "What I would like to create is excitement to be in school and be in class," Steve explains. "It's not just math – it's about the whole child and the whole person." With that mindset, he hopes to be able to get to know

the students not just as students, but as people. "My vision is to have a relationship with every single kid that walks through the door," he says.

As principal, Steve will no doubt use the skills and abilities he's gained through his years and his travels, but in his mind, his principle role is not just to lead, but to serve. "My job is to make people's lives easier," he says. He hopes to create an environment where everyone feels empowered to take an active role in education – the students, the teachers, and the parents. "Success is when you have a good pulse on the climate and culture and know where the effort needs to be," he says. So while Steve has never worked in a traditional office, he knows and is grateful to be part of an education system that embraces religion. "We're lucky to be Catholic and have a Catholic school," he says, "because it's only growing for the better." ♦



Courtesy



Inspiring Unity

The Greater Concord Interfaith Council affirms that what unites us is greater than what divides us. Beginning in 1949, the Concord Council of Churches was comprised of Protestant and Catholic Churches. In the 1980s, its by-laws were revised as the group became the Greater Concord Interfaith Council and membership was extended to the Jewish Synagogue, Bahai Faith, Concord Friends Meeting (Quaker Community), Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, Unitarian Universalist Church, Islamic Community in Concord, and other religious bodies interested in furthering the Interfaith mission. “Creating unity within diverse beliefs since 1949,” the Council’s tagline reads.

Margaret Morrill and Katie Crabb are two lay delegates from Christ the King Parish who attend the council’s monthly meetings, as well as participate in its events and initiatives. Margaret says, “The Greater Concord Interfaith Council is composed of 30 different faith communities in greater Concord, working together to explore their

religious diversity through common worship, mutual education, and community outreach.” Some examples of council activities include offering a non-denominational Thanksgiving service; putting on the Lenten Luncheon Series, which hosts different speakers of different faiths; acknowledging Holocaust Remembrance Day; participating in the annual CROP Walk for Hunger; supporting Family Promise, an organization which houses and educates homeless families; and celebrating the International Day of Peace.

The council is a living and vibrant reminder that despite our faith differences, we are all children of God and members of the same community and human family. Margaret affirms, “By working together and experiencing diversity, we are also sharing a common spiritual goal.” Margaret has been a volunteer of the Interfaith Council for over 45 years. She says, “I didn’t seek it out. Monsignor George Murray, who was then pastor of St. John’s, asked me if I would be a lay representative to the

Council. I had never been active in an interfaith organization before and I said I would give it a try.”

Margaret shares, “My father’s family were members of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church; however, he allowed us to be raised as Catholics. He didn’t share much about his faith with us, but when he married my Mom, a Catholic, some people from his church turned their backs on him.” Margaret’s father was not the only relative of hers to experience religious persecution. In fact, Margaret’s great grandparents fled from their home in Concord for a few days in fear of the aggressive “Know Nothings,” which were an anti-immigration, anti-Catholic national political entity that gained power in the 1840s and by 1850s and were achieving phenomenal growth in the area.

“Remembering this history in my family continues to bring to mind the need to form friendly connections with people of different faiths and cultures despite our differences,” she says.

Katie has been an Interfaith Council delegate for five years. She recalls, “When I was in grade school, I remember the sisters saying that we can’t have friends who are not Catholic, and we should never associate with people who are not Catholic and that stayed with me until I met Margaret who told me about the Interfaith Council where I have experienced making friends of all faiths. It has really changed my perspective!”

Margaret says, “It is very rewarding to me to gather with other people of different religions who are devoted to God, and see the Council grow and expand its connections to the community.” The Greater Concord Interfaith Council helps us to understand the diversity of cultures, languages, and traditions in our community and inspires us to unite in faith, hope, and love. ♦

SEPTEMBER 2023

September 4: Labor Day

The parish office will be closed today in observance of the holiday.

September 4:

Women's Fall Bible Study

Walking With Purpose: Touching the Divine focuses on the many qualities of Jesus revealed through the Gospel of John. This study draws us into a deeper, loving relationship with Jesus as we reflect on His life and personality. Day and evening options are available for Zoom and in-person fellowship. As we study, Saint John will teach us how much Jesus loves us, and how His love is the true satisfaction of our souls. Knowing Christ more intimately, as John did, will touch your heart and fill you with hope! Kick-off the week of September 4. For more information, email ctkwwp20@gmail.com.

September 6: Adoration

Come for an hour of adoration every Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 pm in the church. All are welcome! Come for a few minutes or stay for the whole hour.

September 7: Adult Choir

The Adult Choir meets every Thursday from 6:30-8:00 pm beginning on Thursday, September 7. All are invited to attend (musicians as well). The choir will sing every weekend at Mass. For more information, contact Michelle Dokka, Director of Music Ministry, at michelled@christthekingnh.org or 603.224.2328.

September 11: Alpha

Alpha is for everyone. It is judgment-free. No question is out of bounds



and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. Whether you are a life-long Catholic, an atheist, a skeptic, or just curious about the Christian faith, you are invited! Alpha will meet at the Barley House on Mondays at 6:00 pm for 12 weeks. For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/alpha.

September 13: Handbell Choir

This is a multi-generational group open to ages 9 to 99. If you can count to four, know your left from your right, and can see in color, you have all the skills you need to be in this group. The Handbell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 pm in the choir loft beginning Wednesday, September 13. For more information, please contact Michelle Dokka at michelled@christthekingnh.org.

September 23: Sacramental Preparation Parents' Meeting

If you have a child in the second grade, they are eligible to receive First Reconciliation. Children in the third grade are eligible to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. There will be a Parents' Meeting on Saturday, September 23, at 9:00 am in the Parish Activity Center. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Albee at jen@christthekingnh.org.

OCTOBER 2023

October 6 & 8: Emmaus

Emmaus is a place where every disciple of Christ of every age can come and grow deeper in their Catholic faith and deeper in fellowship with their church community. This year's topic is "Seen & Unseen: The Sacraments of the Catholic Church." Visit christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

October 9: Columbus Day

The parish office will be closed in observance of the holiday.

NOVEMBER 2023

November 1: All Saints' Day



All Saints' Day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. **This is a holy day of obligation** and Mass will be available at 9:00 am, 12:10 pm, and 7:00 pm.

November 2: All Souls' Day

All Souls' Day is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven. Consider using the provided All Souls' Day envelope to add your prayer intentions. These intentions will be prayed for throughout the year.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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September 9 & 10:

Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

September 16 & 17:

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September 23 & 24:

no special collection

September 30 & October 1:

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CONTACT INFO



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Father Rich Roberge, frrich@christthekingnh.org

Deacon:

Winton DeRosia, deaconwinton@christthekingnh.org

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For more information on the parish's online giving program, visit christthekingnh.org/give. To request monthly parish envelopes in the mail, call Kathy Planchet, Parish Secretary, in the parish office at **603.224.2328**.

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