

A Grandmother's Gift

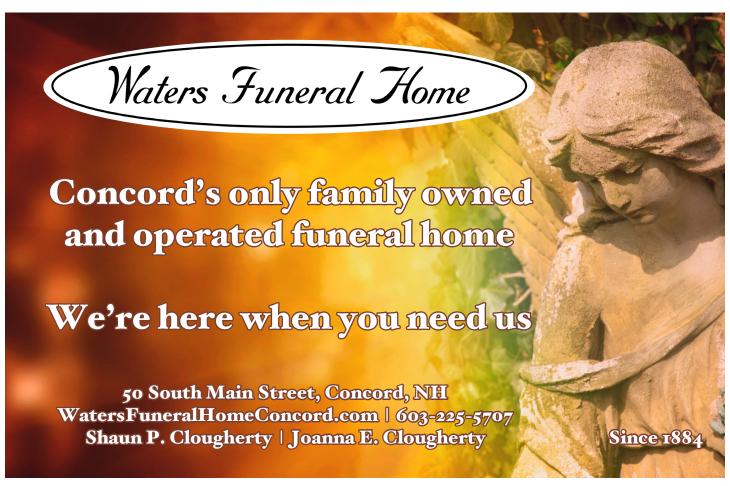
Letitia Borelli reflects on her grandmother's death and its effect on her life of faith













Dear Friends,

We are in the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. When most of us think of the word "ordinary," what comes to mind is something that is not special or remarkable. I would ask us to reconsider.

Ordinary Time refers to the season in between the end of the Christmas Season to the beginning of Lent and again the end of the Easter Season to the beginning of Advent – it is a time where most of our days are lived. It is a time to order our lives. Here is where the extraordinary can happen in the ordinary. Whereas Advent prepares us for the birth of Christ and the 40 days of Lent gets us ready for the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus, it is these months without the special celebrations that we are invited to look at the life of Jesus as a model for our own.

Vestments worn during this season are green to reflect life and hope. During the spring and summer months here at Christ the King Parish, I wear light green mirroring the color of freshly mowed grass and new leaves which have suddenly popped out of their buds. As summer ends and fall begins, I change to a darker green, reflecting the color of evergreen trees and the darkening of days as the fall equinox draws nearer. Although the color of my vestments changes to reflect the deepening of the season, the color remains green as it is one of hope and everlasting life.

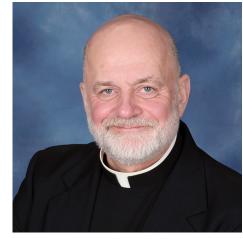
This green reminds us of our Life in Christ. We are to be inspired by the ordinariness of how Jesus lived his life in this world: how he tended to the sick, to those without a place to lay their head, to those who did not fit into neat categories of who is acceptable and who is not.

So every time we look and see the color green – whether it is in our parish or outside in our world – let us be reminded to act with the beautiful ordinariness of Christ in our world and how the extraordinary can touch our ordinary lives at a time when we might least expect it. In this issue of *Proclaim*, you will read of two such extraordinary events: how Letitia Borelli's grandmother gave her back the gift of faith and how the call to Men's Ministry captivated Roger Achong and continues to impact his life.

May our God help you and me continue to see the extraordinary in this, our ordinary time.

Yours in Christ.

Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge, Pastor at Christ the King Parish



"Mom! Don't worry, it's only two weeks!" Cooper exclaimed as we dropped him and Jack (our two oldest) off at their first ever overnight summer camp. I fought back tears as we kissed and hugged our boys goodbye and watched them walk into their cabins with seasoned-camper confidence. Then, as we drove away from the campground, the waterworks began, my mind filled with worry and raced with all the things that could possibly go horrifically wrong.

There's a certain unshakable fear that accompanies the sending of children out into the world, isn't there? Whether we're sending them to camp or college, a friend's house or school, there's a piece of us that will always worry. If only there was someone always by their side guiding and protecting them! Oh wait, there is! (More on this in a second.)

Two weeks flew by and our boys had the time of their lives. They returned to us tan, tired, and happy with camp stories spilling out of their Kool-Aid-stained, slightly chapped lips. All was well and I prayed a heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving to their guardian angels for keeping them safe. Yup, I thanked their guardian angels.

God has assigned a guardian

angel to each and every one of us. They're with us everywhere we go and in my own humble opinion, they don't get called upon nearly as much as they should. If this sounds fantastical to you, I get it! I can totally relate. Prior to knowing what the Church teaches about these heavenly beings, the idea of angels seemed childish and unrealistic. And if there were angels, I thought they were relatives and friends who had passed away. (Fun fact! Humans will never become angels and vice versa. Angels are a completely separate entity and different order from humans.)

The Bible references armies of angels several times. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* proclaims that "from infancy to death human life is surrounded by their [angels'] watchful care and intercession. Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life. Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God." (CCC 336)

Knowing that an incredible, God-given guardian is with my children (and me) at all times brings great peace and comfort to my heart. I pray this prayer to my children's guardian angels every day and I invite you to join me! •

I humbly salute you, O you faithful, heavenly friends of my children! I give you heartfelt thanks for all the love and goodness you show them. At some future day I shall, with thanks more worthy than I can now give, repay your care for them, and before the whole heavenly court acknowledge their indebtedness to your guidance and protection. Continue to watch over them. Provide for all their needs of body and soul. Pray, likewise, for me, my husband and my whole family that we may all one day rejoice in your blessed company. Amen.



Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King

How does the Church understand other religions?

Being Catholic requires a delicate balance of confidence and humility. We believe that the Catholic Church is the One True Church, the Church founded by Jesus and His Apostles. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "The sole Church of Christ [is that] which our Savior, after his Resurrection, entrusted to Peter's pastoral care, commissioning him and the other apostles to extend and rule it...[This Church] subsists in the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him." (CCC 816)

However, by no means is this truth meant to instill in us a superiority complex. Our Lord modeled for us a humility that we will strive to carry with us as we seek to address this month's question regarding what our Church teaches about other religions.

To begin, let us consider our Protestant brothers and sisters. We all share the name "Christian." but became divided from the time of the Protestant Reformation. We all share belief in Jesus, but beyond this you will find differing theology, liturgy, and practices. The Catechism tells us, "In this one and only Church of God from its very beginnings there arose certain rifts...But in subsequent centuries much more serious dissensions appeared and large communities became separated from full communion with the Catholic Church – for which, often enough, men of both sides were to blame." (CCC 817) This last line is so important; the Church does not claim to be innocent in the Reformation or to be free from the corruption that caused it. No side is blameless in the division of the People of God.

But division is not the end for us Christians! The Catechism continues saying, "All who have been justified by faith in Baptism are incorporated into Christ; they therefore have a right to be called Christians, and with good reason are accepted as brothers in the Lord by the children of the Catholic Church." (CCC 818) And furthermore, we are encouraged to be in relationship with our Protestant family, working together for the Kingdom of God. In this way, we can be "one" while we work towards true unity.

Let us consider the Jewish People next, with whom we share a special bond. The Catechism states, "When she delves into her own mystery, the Church... discovers her link with the Jewish People. The Jewish faith, unlike other non-Christian religions is already a response to God's revelation in the Old Covenant." (CCC 839) We share much with our Jewish family and indeed worship the same God.

Similarly, we are uniquely connected to the Muslims, who also worship the One True God. The Catechism states, "The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God." (CCC 841)

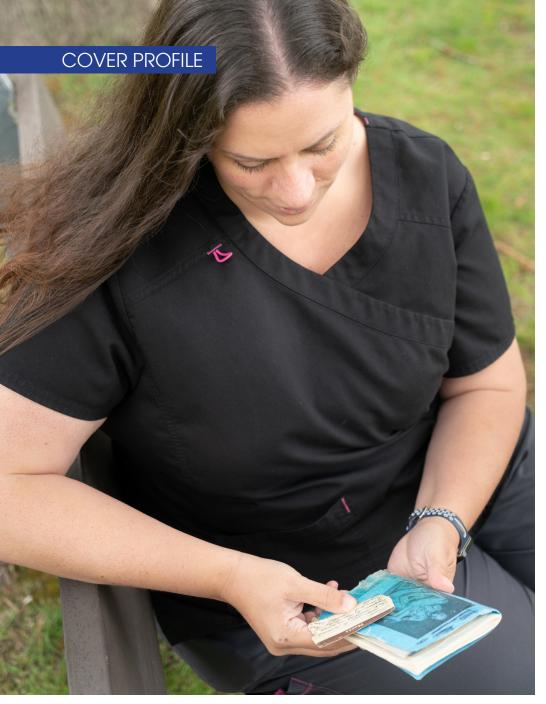
But of course we also know that there are a number of religions that do not share our belief in God. Yet the common bond of all of humanity still ties us to these people. The Catechism beautifully

proclaims, "The Catholic Church recognizes in other religions that search, among shadows and images, for the God who is unknown yet near since he gives life and breath and all things and wants all men to be saved. Thus, the Church considers all goodness and truth found in these religions as 'a preparation for the Gospel and given by him who enlightens all men that they may at length have life." (CCC 843)

Here we find that humility we are called to. We affirm that the good, the true, and the beautiful found in other faiths is valid. While we believe that salvation is found through the Church, we trust that God is working to bring all men to Himself. But we must not forget that God accomplishes this through you and me. As the Catechism declares, "Although in ways known to himself, God can lead those who, through no fault of their own, are ignorant of the Gospel, to that faith without which it is impossible to please him, the Church still has the obligation and also the sacred right to evangelize all men." (CCC 848) ◆



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King



A Grandmother's Gift

Everyone seems to have a story about their favorite grandparent — the one who would let you stay up past curfew, give you ice cream for dinner, or always come to visit with a new toy. For many of us, grandparents are the ones to lavish gifts and praise and love on us whenever we see them. For Christ the King parishioner, Letitia Borelli, her grandmother gave her this and so much more. Her grandmother, Louise Russo, helped give her back the gift of faith, and in so doing,

completely changed Letitia's and her family's life forever.

Born and raised in Derry, New Hampshire, Letitia grew up in a faithful Catholic family, receiving her sacraments and attending Mass every Sunday. While outwardly she did everything asked of her, inwardly religion was never a priority. "I struggled with belief growing up," Letitia admits. Her challenges stemmed mostly from seeing her father suffer through multiple sclerosis.

It was evident to Letitia, however, that the one person who exemplified the faith was her grandmother. "She was a devout Catholic," Letitia remembers. "She went to Mass every day and was involved in her parish, St. Benedict in Somerville, Massachusetts." Her grandmother's faith was solid, even through losing her own parents and her husband and having a family member diagnosed with a serious disease all in the space of one year.

Beyond that, "She was the best grandma. We used to fight over who got to sit next to her at dinner, who got to go with her in her car," Letitia remembers fondly. "She was a great person; she believed in people."

While in graduate school at MGH Institute of Health Professionals, Letitia was fortunate enough to be able to live with her grandmother. "I called her my 'roomie," she says with a laugh. "We were very close." She remembers watching her grandmother wake up and spend half an hour going through her prayer book and then do the same a half hour before she went to bed. "That's how she would start and end her day - in prayer," Letitia says. At the time, her habits seemed incomprehensible. "She loved people and she loved God so much," Letitia says, "Before I came back to the faith, I never understood it."

Despite her grandmother's example, Letitia drifted away from Catholicism as a young adult, "I didn't stop believing, per se, I just stopped practicing my faith," she explains. Letitia eventually moved down to the Washington D.C. area and married her husband, who was also brought up Catholic but was not practicing. Though they would occasionally accompany Protestant friends to their Sunday services, nothing ignited a greater desire for God. Her grandmother, hearing that she was attending Protestant

services, gave her some advice. "I remember my grandma telling me very specifically, 'Don't forget your religion. Praise where you feel like you need to praise, but don't forget your roots," Letitia recalls. At this time, however, she had no desire to return to her roots, despite her grandmother's example.

Eventually, Letitia and her husband, now with a young son, decided to move back home to be closer to their families. There were vague plans to have their son baptized, but time passed and they never could seem to get around to it. "It wasn't important in our lives," she explains.

When her grandmother became ill, Letitia and her family were there, witnessing her faith and trust in God even through harsh medical treatments. When it seemed that the end was coming, Letitia followed her grandma's wishes and made sure she received Last Rites. "Even though it wasn't something I felt strongly about, I knew she felt strongly about it," she says. Her grandmother passed away about a week before the Covid-19 lockdown and was the last one to be buried out of her church for a long time.

Her grandma's death hit Letitia hard. It was especially painful because she had to attend her funeral via Facetime due to health concerns. "I really, really struggled," she remembers, "And I missed her a lot." Unfortunately, it felt like there was nothing she could do and nowhere to turn. Her grief seemed unending, even in sleep. "I would dream about her every night," she shares.

Then suddenly and unexpectedly, everything changed. It was as if a light suddenly switched on. "One day I woke up and had this overwhelming sense of renewed faith," Letitia says. "I had no control over it; it was just there." Where faith and thoughts of God had before been an afterthought,

they were now set at the forefront of her mind and heart. Somehow, Letitia knew she needed to act. She started attending Christ the King Sunday Masses via YouTube and slowly relearning how to live a more intentionally Catholic life.

Though her newfound faith was strong, it did not remove her grief. Letitia still missed her grandmother and dreamt about her constantly. Then, God gave her yet another gift, one that she will never forget.

One night Letitia dreamed she was speaking with her grandma and telling her how much she missed her. Her grandmother - in her typical fashion - pulled Letitia in for a big hug. As Letitia hugged her grandma, over her shoulder she saw the Virgin Mary approach and then felt her hug them both. The feeling of being embraced by both her grandmother and the Blessed Mother was something inexpressible. "I have never felt such joy in my life," Letitia remembers, "It was the most magical, comforting happiness. It was a split second of what it meant to be truly happy. I will hold on to that little piece forever."

After that, it felt like everything began falling into place. Letitia's husband experienced a similar renewal of his faith only a couple of months afterward and together they started on their new faith journey. Within the last two years, they have had their marriage convalidated (blessed by the Church) and their son baptized. They have also gotten more involved in the parish community by attending Emmaus and Letitia has stepped up to lead the rosary and to become a reader at Mass. The change in their lives couldn't be more noticeable. "It's just a different life now," she says, "We approach everything now based on our faith."

Letitia knows that her grandma's intercession had a big hand in her and her family's reversion. "I really believe between her and the Holy Spirit, they brought my faith back to me," she says. The greatest surprise was that this gift was unlooked for, unasked for, and yet given all the same. While she still misses her grandmother, Letitia knows that, by the grace of God, they will see each other again someday. In the meantime, she has nothing but the greatest gratitude to her and to God for this new life. "It was a real, beautiful gift that they gave back to me," she says, "We get to live our lives with faith at its center."





By Michael Clark | Photography by Will Judd

If you want to hear about the life-changing effect that Christ the King Parish's Men's Ministry can have, Roger Achong is a good person to speak with. He was introduced to the Men's Ministry one day after Mass when Ned Lizotte handed him a card advertising the group's monthly gatherings. "I go home, I take the card out of my pocket, I throw it on my desk, and I said to myself, "There's no way I'm going to commit more time to the church," Roger recalls.

However, the invitation stuck with him. The card that read, "You are called. Ready to answer?" sat on his desk. "Next thing I know, I'm sitting at my desk, and the card is there, calling out to me," he says. "I thought, 'Ned asked me to go, and it's not like I have to commit. I'll go check it out."

Roger was surprised by what he discovered upon attending his first Men's Ministry meeting. "I was captivated by the insights of the men I met there," he says. After the first meeting, Roger did not intend to come back, but two weeks later, in the middle of his workout routine, he felt the call again. He left the gym and went straight to the Men's Ministry meeting. He has been a regular attendee ever since. "I felt drawn to come back to hear my brothers. I realized how much knowledge and understanding these men have." He regards the wisdom and spirituality demonstrated at the meetings as both an inspiration and an example that can motivate him to learn and grow in faith, alongside the other men in the group.

The Men's Ministry at Christ the King Parish is relatively new. Two years ago, Ken Roth responded to the call to begin the ministry with the encouragement of Father Rich. The concept was simple: meet for coffee and conversation twice a month. Soon the group decided to add hosting adoration every first Wednesday of the month. Now the members also have a monthly challenge to go to Confession in order to be an example to their families and friends of receiving the sacraments on a regular basis.

The Men's Ministry has come to play a central role in Roger's faith life. "In some way I feel like I have found my religious salvation, being with them," he says. Participating in the Men's Ministry has also had a great deal of influence on how he sees his role as a husband and father. "I'm doing this for my daughter, my son, and my wife. I want to be, hopefully, good enough for them and then eventually, if I can do that, I can be an example for others."

MEN'S MINISTRY

All men are welcome to come together for coffee and conversation on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month at 8:00 am. For more information, email menofctk@gmail.com.

JULY 2022

July 4: Independence Day

The parish office will be closed today in observance of Independance Day.

July 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.

July 17-23: Saint Joseph Icon

Every few years, the Knights of Columbus select an icon of a saint whose patronage is particularly inspiring to Knights and their communities. This year Saint Joseph has been chosen. From July 17-23, the icon will be on display at Christ the King Parish to spread devotion to Saint Joseph. A prayer service will be held in the church on July 17 at 6:00 pm.

July 25-28: Fiat Days Camp

Young women, ages 14-18, who are exploring God's plan for their life are invited to attend the Fiat Days camp on July 25-28. This is an overnight camp including hiking, swimming, canoeing, sports, games, and daily Mass. For more information or to register, please visit liveinblackandwhite.com.

July 18-29: Don Bosco Camp

This camp for boys ages 6-14 offers a fun, faith-filled environment for young boys to form healthy friendships, develop character, and grow closer to Christ. It is held from July 18-29. The cost is \$200/week, non-refundable, scholarships and family rates are available. For more information, visit donboscoboyscamp.org. The camp is sponsored by Holy Family Academy.

July 31-August 6: Totus Tuus Summer Camp

Totus Tuus is coming to Christ the King Parish! Totus Tuus is a Catholic summer youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic Faith through catechesis, evangelization, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. The program is for children in grades 1-12 and will run from July 31-August 6. For additional information, email Jen Albee at jen@christthekingnh.org.

AUGUST 2022

August 8-12: Quo Vadis Days Camp

Young men, ages 14-18, exploring the Lord's plan for their life are invited to attend Quo Vadis Days camp on August 8-12. This is an overnight camp including hiking, swimming, canoeing, sports, games, and daily Mass. For more information or to register, please visit liveinblackandwhite.com

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) Because this holy day is on a Monday this year, it is not a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 12:10 pm and 7:00 pm today.

SEPTEMBER 2022

September 5: Labor Day

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

September 15: 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 for a meal and discussion on Thurs-

days for 12 weeks. For more information, visit **christthekingnh. org/alpha**.

September 22: Children's Choir

This choir is open to children in grades three and above. The choir sings several times throughout the year for Masses and special occasions. The Children's Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 5:15-6:15 pm, throughout the school year, in Barry Hall.

September 24: 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! For more information, visit **christthekingnh.org/harvest-bazaar**.

OCTOBER 2022

October 7 & 9: 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 "A Surge of the Heart: Understanding Prayer." This month, we will discussing Prayer in Salvation History. Visit christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

July 2 &3:

Food Pantry (Parish) Mission Co-op (Diocesan)

July 9 & 10:

Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

July 16 & 17:

Maintenance (Parish)

July 23 & 24:

no special collection

July 30 & 31:

no special collection

CONTACT INFO







Christ the King Parish

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

Weekend Masses

Sat: 4:00 pm | Sun: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Weekday Masses

Mon, Wed, Fri: 12:10 pm | Thurs: 5:30 pm

Confession/Reconciliation

Thurs: 4:45-5:15 pm | Sat: 2:30-3:30 pm

Pastor:

Father Rich Roberge, frrich@christthekingnh.org

Winton DeRosia, deaconwinton@christthekingnh.org

Director of Parish Life:

Cynthia Tokos, cynthia@christthekingnh.org

Bookkeeper:

Liz Geary, liz@christthekingnh.org

Business Manager:

Charlie Burr, charlie@christthekingnh.org

Communications Coordinator:

Sarah Jane Roth, sarahjane@christthekingnh.org

Coordinator of Adult Discipleship:

Haley Judd, haley@christthekingnh.org

Coordinator of Young Disciples:

Jen Albee, jen@christthekingnh.org

Director of Music Ministry:

Michelle Dokka, michelled@christthekingnh.org

Facilitator of Community Engagement:

Jeff Litchfield, jeff@christthekingnh.org

Parish Secretary:

Kathy Planchet, kathy@christthekingnh.org





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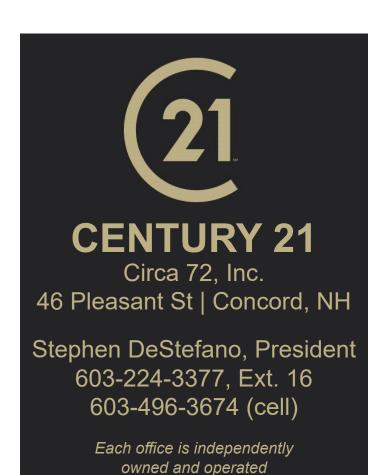
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MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

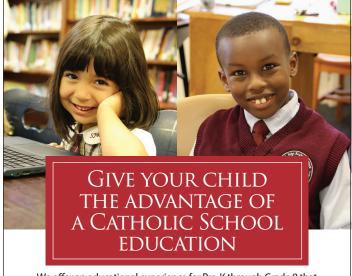
	5/15/22	5/22/22	5/29/22	6/5/22
Offertory	\$9,292.00	\$9,681.00	\$8,643.00	\$9,980.00
Online	\$7,168.81	\$5,891.84	\$5,174.83	\$5,490.95
Total	\$16,460.81	\$15,572.84	\$13,817.83	\$15,470.95

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 at the parish office, 603.224.2328.









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OCTOBER 7 & 9

A Surge of the Heart: Prayer in Salvation History

NOVEMBER 4 & 6

In Fullness of Time: Jesus and Prayer

DECEMBER 2 & 4

We Dare to Say - Part 1: Exploring the Lord's Prayer

JANUARY 6 & 8

We Dare to Say - Part 2: Exploring the Lord's Prayer

FEBRUARY 3 & 5

Our Heart's Resolve: Expressions of Prayer

MARCH 3 & 5

In the Age of the Church: The Tradition of Prayer

MARCH 31 & APRIL 2

The Battle: Guidance in Prayer





