CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Where God Leads Yo

The DeRosia family reflects on their individual and collective discernments

CATHOLIC CUE Advent with Levi

MINISTRY PROFILE COME ALIVE Vocations: Lifeblood of the Church

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Parishioners of Christ the King Parish





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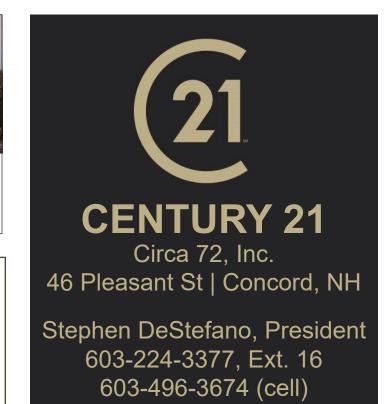


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Dear Friends,

In this issue of *Proclaim*, we focus on the topic of vocation. During **National Vocation Awareness Week** (November 7-13 this year), the Church in the United States takes the opportunity to promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

We also celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 21. Considering the convergence of these two events this month, I couldn't help but contemplate our baptismal anointing to be **priest**, **prophet**, and king, and how in living that out we accomplish our primary vocation: to be holy. The first two titles in our baptismal anointing, priest and prophet, may be a little easier for us to understand. As priests, we offer ourselves and our gifts to God as sacrifice. As prophets, we speak the truth, even when it's uncomfortable. But the third call, to be king, may be harder for us to understand as we do not have much experience with royalty, especially as an ideal.

I find that the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* can be helpful in understanding this particular calling:

[I]t belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will... Moreover, by uniting their forces let the laity so remedy the institutions and conditions of the world when the latter are an inducement to sin, that these may be conformed to the norms of justice, favoring rather than hindering the practice of virtue. By so doing they will impregnate culture and human works with a moral value. (898, 909) In other words, let us work for justice in all areas of our world. I find this call to be compelling. Our world is suffering and it needs our sacrificial love, our proclamation of the truth, and our willingness to do the hard work of confronting injustice and developing moral institutions, governance, and conditions. The world needs us. It

needs YOU!

As I pray, and ask all of you to pray, for those in our community that may be considering a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life, I also pray that you may strive for that vocation which we all share: to live the life of a saint. May we all look to Jesus, the ultimate priest, prophet, and king, for our example.

Yours in Christ,

Father Rich



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



Well here we are! Headed into the holiday season. I know, I know, it's only the beginning of November, but you and I both know Christmas stuff has been out since July, so it's not really that early. Between cleaning up after Halloween, tucking away your All Saints' Day stuff, preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas, we're going into one of the busiest seasons of the year. But one of the many things that's beautiful about our faith is that it has liturgical seasons which cause us to pause and reflect on several moments of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. One of those seasons is nearly upon us: the season of Advent! Advent is the four-week liturgical season when we wait in joyful hope and anticipation for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

During Advent, our family mixes a bit of the secular culture with Catholic culture. Advent this year begins on November 28 and thus will begin our annual visit by our Elf on the Shelf named Levi. Yup, we've got one of those pesky elves that moves every day and is basically used as a behavioral modification tool: "Harry, Levi is watching, he's going to tell Santa that you hit your brother again!" Our elf is a bit less pesky than most, though. Levi comes daily with little biblical prompts, Catholic trivia, or facts about certain saints' feast days.

For example, on the Feast of Saint Nicholas (December 6), in keeping with tradition, Levi pairs up with good ol' Saint Nick and leaves treats in my boys' shoes. He also leaves little factoids like how Saint Nicholas was a bishop and he's the patron saint of sailors and children and also leaves behind a Saint Nicholas prayer.

Levi also keeps the boys on track with our Advent wreath. We mark each Sunday of Advent on our wreath with four candles: three purple candles and one pink. These candles represent the four weeks of Advent and the 4,000 years between the creation of Adam and Eve and the birth of Jesus Christ. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday. On this Sunday, you'll notice Father Rich wearing rose-colored vestments! Remember, real men wear pink.;)

As I watch my boys every morning, searching for and ultimately finding Levi, it always warms my heart when they find him in the crèche, seated next to our "Kneeling Santa," or perched atop the frame that holds an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the Feast of Saint Juan Diego (December 9) or the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12). Levi is seriously the most catechizing elf from the North Pole and we love him for it! ◆



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

What is Heaven, Really?

Several years ago, country recording artist, Kane Brown, released a love song entitled "Heaven." The final line of the chorus declares, "Lying here with you... I don't know how heaven could be better than this." This song is one of countless love songs that involve this idea of heaven. Cue Bryan Adams singing, "Isn't too hard to see we're in heaven." I am always fascinated how Catholic theology can become imbedded into secular society. In my experience, many of us Catholics have muddled the secular and religious understandings of heaven so much that we really don't know what our Church teaches about this ultimate goal!

The month of November each year is dedicated to remembering the saints, beginning with All Saints' Day on the first. Accordingly, let us begin answering this question by talking about sainthood! Many Catholics seem to believe that a saint is an impossibly perfect person - someone who spent their life in poverty or died tragically for the faith, and usually someone whose example we could never live up to. This was my understanding for the longest time. But the truth is that the term "saint" simply refers to a soul in heaven.

However, understanding this can conflict with the idea that all are going to heaven, another common misconception. Most of us think we could never be saints, but think we are assuredly going to heaven. We realize this is not possible when we come to understand the true definition of a saint.

So what is necessary for entrance to heaven? Or, what is necessary for sainthood? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us: "Those who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live forever with Christ." (1023) Therefore, entrance to heaven is less about the good that we do and more about the relationship we have with God. Granted, this relationship will always spur us on to do good, but doing good without the relationship simply is not enough.

The Catechism also mentions a purification process. On earth, we are broken and sinful people and we need to be purified before we can enter the perfection of heaven. While some complete this process during their lives, the Catholic Church holds to the doctrine of purgatory, a place after death where purification can take place. The Catechism says, "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (CCC 1030)

While Catholics and others often view this doctrine as harsh, it is truly one of mercy. While we always strive for holiness, God has prepared a way for his broken, sinful people to be with him forever.

As we push beyond our misconceptions of heaven, we are

faced with the simple question: What is heaven? It can be challenging for me when heaven is described as "worshipping God forever" or "eternal Mass."

I love my faith and the celebration of the Mass, but I must confess that can sound rather unappealing. I remember once sharing these feelings with my husband, Andrew, and he told me to picture heaven as the best, most joyful moments of my life. The Catechism reflects Andrew's idea of heaven stating, "Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness." (CCC 1024) This level of happiness is rooted in perfect relationship with God.

It is important for us to remember that our Church's teachings extend beyond heaven alone. The Catholic faith professes the second coming of Jesus, the resurrection of our bodies, and a new heaven and a new earth as the ultimate end for those who follow the Lord! ◆



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

COVER PROFILE

Where God Leads You

The DeRosia family reflects on their individual and collective discernments by Michael Clark | Photography by Will Judd

The importance of vocations to Catholics cannot be overstated. Like so many essential things, the subject of vocations might seem to be a mere detail of Catholic teaching and practice. When we look at the subject more closely, however, we find that vocations are the lifeblood of the Church; they are what makes possible the Church's work in bringing Christ to the whole world.

A perfect example of the great fruits that can be produced when we discern and follow our vocations with our whole hearts can be found in the DeRosia family. Within this family, a number of vocations are represented: Winton and Marie are joyfully living the vocation to marriage, Winton is a permanent deacon, and their son, Father Von, is a priest. When asked what is the most important element in discerning and living one's vocation, their answer is simple: prayer.

"It was specifically prayer that opened us to saying 'Where is God leading me?" Father Von says. "Prayer is so important because we need to get close to the heart of God. Friends become friends by spending time with each other. We come to know the heart of Jesus by spending time with him, in adoration, in reading through the scriptures, and in praying the rosary in our own private prayers and family prayer." Marie agrees and adds that family prayer is the most important component in the discernment of vocations. Deacon Winton says, "We struggle with trying to understand who we are and what God desires for us. It is important to bring those challenges to prayer so that we can discern that within our lives."

Given all this, it is unsurprising

that prayer is the centerpiece of the DeRosia's lives and has been integral to the discernment and living out of their respective vocations. On both her vocation to marriage and the experience of married life, Marie says, "When I met my husband, I just felt like this was certainly a man I wanted to spend my life with. And at this point we've been married 49 years and we've grown very much together." Her observation on what makes for a good marriage identifies prayer as being of paramount importance. "One of the major things that has allowed us to grow has been the fact that we pray together daily and that we enjoy each other's company, and enjoy working together and just being together."

It was this prayerfulness that also helped to lead Father Von to the priesthood. "I was young when I first felt the call to priesthood," he says. "I was maybe nine or ten years old when that call came." However, there were some struggles along the way. In the midst of junior high, Father Von encountered obstacles. "I started to hide my light under a bushel basket, as it were." But it was ultimately prayer that set him back on the path that God had called him. "In high school, when we started praying together as a family again, slowly over the course of several months I just started to feel that tug again towards the priesthood. When I was applying for colleges it was with the expectation that after college I would be going into seminary and becoming a priest."

"Where God is calling us is always leading us towards true happiness, to true joy, to true fulfillment."

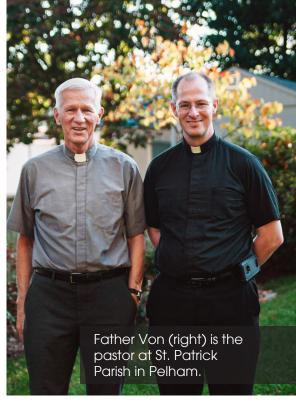
The DeRosias also show how one can be supported and uplifted in one's vocation through the encouragement found within the family. Deacon Winton relates how his discernment of his vocation to the permanent diaconate was a difficult process, but that he was helped along that path by Marie. "She just supported it all the way," he says. "She said, 'Oh yes, that's exactly what you're supposed to be doing." He adds, "Marie has encouraged us all in our faith."

Marie was raised in a large Catholic family. Growing up, evenings were filled with discussions of the faith and praying together, so encouraging and supporting her husband and children in their faith came naturally. Deacon Winton's family, on the other hand, was unaffliated with any church. His conversion to Catholicism came six years after he married Marie. Deacon Winton says, "Marie was Catholic first. She is the one who helped us all to come together as a family and grow in the faith."

This support is not just something that is found within just a single family. Marie says, "It is so important to be surrounded by Christian families living out their Christianity." Father Von makes a similar point relating to discernment programs that he was involved in while in college. "Being surrounded by people who will support and encourage that discernment is important," he says.

It is with the importance of encouraging and supporting vocations in mind that Marie directs the Vocations Ministry at Christ the King Parish. Deacon Winton and Marie also belong to a group called Parents of Priests. "Once a month we get together as parents of priests and pray together for our sons, and for all priests," says Deacon Winton. Father Von is involved with the coordination of camps for young people that allows them to explore what their vocation may be. These camps, called Ouo Vadis camps for boys and Fiat camps for girls, are a great resource to aid the discernment process for youth who are seeking God's will in their lives.

Activities such as these are aimed to promote the discernment of vocations and for the affirmation of those who are currently living out a particular vocation. The importance of raising such awareness is great, because so many young people who are currently discerning their own vocations may be hesitant about taking the steps necessary for pursuing a vocation, especially if that vocation is to the priesthood or religious life. For



young people in such a situation, Father Von offers some words of encouragement. "At heart, God wants each of us to be happy," he says. "Where God is calling us is always leading us towards true happiness, to true joy, to true fulfillment."

With regard to the fears associated with all that one might have to give up in order to pursue a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, Father Von says: "No matter what vocation we go into, whether it is priesthood, religious life, married life, or even the single life of service, there's sacrifice involved in all of them."

Indeed, sacrifice is central to the life of a Catholic. "To follow Christ means the Cross. But the Cross always brings not just Good Friday but Easter Sunday," Father Von says. "We need to trust God's will, because whatever he wants is going to be so incredibly good for us."

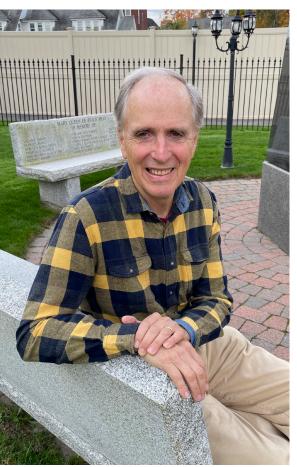
The work of the DeRosia family has prayer as its foundation and the love of a faithful family as its support. It continues because of an abandonment to and trust in God's will. Given the vocations that have flowered within their family, we can see how vital are their sources: prayer, love, and trust in God. ◆

MINISTRY PROFILE

Vocations: Lifeblood of the Church

By Emily Planchet | Photography by Sarah Jane Roth

While most people in the Catholic Church would agree that we need more vocations, at Christ the King Parish, there were some that decided that just agreeing was not enough. Responding to Bishop Labasci's plea to make a more concerted effort to foster vocations, the Christ the King Vocations



Ministry was born and people like Bill Judd joined immediately. The Vocations Ministry was founded on the understanding that it takes effort to encourage vocations. "You can't just pray about it once and awhile," says Bill. "You've got to actively do something." And so do something they did.

For the past three years, Bill and the Vocations Ministry have made a steadfast effort to raise awareness, to pray more intently, and to help demonstrate what it means to live a vocation faithfully. Honoring Father Rich's ordination anniversary with a "spiritual bouquet" of prayers, ensuring that the Prayer of the Faithful featured a vocation intention at every Mass, and bringing in seminarians and religious sisters to the parish were all activities brought to fruition through their efforts. In addition - and as any parishioner who has gone to Mass over the past months has noticed – they have instituted the Traveling Vocations Crucifix. Now every weekend a different parishioner, couple, or family can participate by taking the cross home and spending the week specifically praying for vocations.

For Bill, vocations have always held a special interest in his life.

Before becoming a Catholic, he was briefly a candidate for holy orders in the Episcopalian Church. Ever since his conversion, though, he has gained an even greater appreciation of the need for people to respond to God's will in their lives – especially through Holy Orders. "We need vocations," he says. "It's the lifeblood of the Church. We can't have the sacraments; we can't run parishes without good priests."

Of course, Bill is also quick to emphasize that the priesthood or religious life is not what everyone is called to or even what most people are called to. The Vocations Ministry also recognizes the importance of having strong marriages rooted in God. "We very much want to promote sacramental marriage," says Bill. "There are so many graces, so many benefits to be had from being married in the Church."

Bill has found the positive reaction to all their work very heartening. "It's obvious that this thing is taking off – people are praying for vocations, there's no doubt about it," says Bill. However, he always keeps in mind that it is God who does the calling. "The heart of this Vocations Ministry is one of prayer," says Bill. All ministry members pray together and apart, in church, and before the Blessed Sacrament - always asking that God's will be done. Since taking part in the ministry, Bill has taken up saying a daily rosary for vocations.

So, when next you find yourself at Mass and you hear Father Rich call up someone to take the Traveling Vocations Crucifix, you are already seeing the fruit of the Vocations Ministry. Why not consider signing up for it yourself or getting involved in the Vocations Ministry? You may just find you could make all the difference in someone's life.

NOVEMBER 2021 November 1: All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. Because this holy day falls on a Monday this year, there is no obligation to attend Mass. Mass will be offered at 9:00 am and 12:10 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 month.

November 2: Stephen Minister Training

Every day you see people who are hurting from life's difficulties. Stephen Ministers are God's representatives who bring them Jesus' love when they need it most. Are you called to be a Stephen Minister? Our next training classes will be on Tuesday evenings, beginning November 2, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Classes will meet via Zoom. For more information, please contact Susan Rock at 603.848.2088 or Pat Fredette at 603.491.8068.

November 11: Veterans Day

The parish office will be closed in observation of Veterans Day

November 12 & 14: Emmaus

The theme for the year is "We Believe: Understanding the Nicene Creed." This weekend we will be talking about "Before All Ages: Jesus Our Savior." For more information and to register, visit **christthekingnh.org/emmaus**.

November 25: Thanksgiving Daily Mass will be offered at 9:00 am today. "We thank you, Father, for the gift of Jesus your Son who came to our Earth and lived in a simple home. We have a greater appreciation of the value and dignity of the human family because he loved and was loved within its shelter. Bless us this day; may we grow in love for each other in our family and so give thanks to you who are the maker of all human families and our abiding peace." (*The Catholic Prayer Book*)

November 25 & 26: Thanksgiving Break The parish office will be closed for a Thanksgiving break.

November 28: Advent Begins

"Mary sustains our journey toward Christmas, for she teaches us how to live this Advent Season in expectation of the Lord. For this time of Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast, but also, each one, in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!" (Pope Francis)

DECEMBER 2021 December 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Today we celebrate Mary's conception without sin. This is a holy day of obligation and Mass will be available at 9:00 am, 12:10 pm, and 7:00 pm.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

"We declare, pronounce and define that the doctrine which asserts that the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from every stain of original sin is a doctrine revealed by God and, for this reason, must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful." (Saint Pope John Paul II)

December 24: Christmas Eve

We will gather at the Capital Center for the Arts, 44 South Main Street, for Mass at 4:00 pm. Midnight Mass will be said at 12:00 am in the church. (There will be no 12:10 pm daily Mass today.)

December 25: Christmas Day

Join us for Mass in the church at 9:00 am or 11:00 am. Christmas is a holy day of obligation fulfilled by attending Mass on Christmas Eve or Day. However, it does not fulfill your Sunday obligation.

December 25 & 26: Weekend Mass Times

On Sunday, December 26, there will be three Masses: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, and 11:00 am. (There will be no 4:00 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 25.)

MONTHLY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS November 1:

All Saints' Day (Parish)

November 6 & 7: Food Pantry (Parish)

November 13 & 14: Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

November 20 & 21: Maintenance (Parish) Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Black and Indian Missions (Diocesan)

CONTACT INFO

Christ the King Parish 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

Reconciliation 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

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Parish Secretary Kathy Planchet kathy@christthekingnh.org Communications Coordinator Sarah Jane Roth sarahjane@christthekingnh.org

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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

MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

	9/19/21	9/26/21	10/3/21	10/10/21
Offertory	\$9,176.00	\$6,635.00	\$11,444.00	\$8,377.00
Online	\$7,623.87	\$5,270.39	\$5,903.95	\$5,491.11
Total	\$16,799.87	\$11,905.39	\$17,347.95	\$13,868.11

SACRIFICAL 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** To request monthly parish envelopes in the mail, call Kathy Planchet at **603.224.2328**.







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REGISTER ONLINE: christthekingnh.org /emmaus NOV 12 & 14: Before All Ages Jesus Our Savior

DEC 10 & 12: Incarnate God Became Man

JAN 14 & 16: For Our Sake Jesus' Death & Resurrection

FEB 11 & 13: Giver of Life Understanding the Holy Spirit

MAR 11 & 13: One Baptism The Role of the Church

APR 8 & 10: The World to Come The Return of Jesus Your smile should be comfortable & confident! Today...

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