



ST. LOUIS THE KING PARISH THE HERALD

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Volume I, Issue I

April 2020

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TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE—BY FR. GLENN



As I pen this address to our parish family we are in week three of social distancing and facing what many consider to be statistically the worst week of the Covid-19 Pandemic in our country. Medical experts report what seems obvious that social distancing has saved thousands of lives and is allowing us to see some light as we crest on the curve of reported infections and deaths. From that vantage point we look forward with renewed hope and greater resolve.

The solitude of isolation has afforded me time for quality prayer and reflection. My prayer led me to contemplate where we are as a parish, what the future might bring, where the Holy Spirit is leading us and what my focus should be as your pas-

tor. From my perspective it has been wonderful to see the new growth and transformation taking place in our parish community. Perhaps the transformation and new life is most visible in what we see all around in our buildings and grounds, but even more important is the Spiritual growth that is evident in the faith lives of the amazing people that make up our parish family.

I have mentioned in several of my homilies, that I have experienced numerous spiritual awakenings or breakthroughs in recent months. I have seen the same spiritual growth in many of our parishioners as well. It is evident in the faith sharing that takes place at meetings and various bible study sessions. It is evident in the smiling faces of the children as they share with

me how they are feeling God in their lives and how much they love their church.

This past year the garden club has perhaps been the most visible sign of the deeper movement of the Spirit. Our beautiful building and our grounds are experiencing constant loving attention. It is great to see more and more people stepping forward and taking “ownership” in the mission of our parish. The most evident sign of a vibrant parish is the ongoing birth of new initiatives that spring forth from the movement of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is moving within our parish community in a powerful way. For that we should be thankful, we should be attentive, and we should be open and prepared to respond to where that Spirit is leading us.

Family Life—The Beating Heart of St. Louis the King Parish

The life of a Christian is, in its very nature, a family life. As members of the Body of Christ, we are all adopted sons and daughters of God. Participation in the life of Christ is Familial. God called a Church, a nation, a people, a tribe, and before all of this, He called a Family. In her wisdom, the Church recognizes the fundamental importance when she calls the Family “the domestic church,” and a community of faith, hope, and charity (CCC 2204). She also recognizes the family as the “original cell of social life” which “constitutes the foundations of freedom, security, and fraternity within society” (CCC 2207). With these words in mind, Saint Louis the King would like to introduce with renewed vigor, its Family Life Ministry. Though it has been present in spirit throughout the life of our Parish, the staff and ministers will now seek to formalize and augment the role of the Family within the life of our parish community.

Who we are: The Family Life Ministry is (in a few words) all of us. Realizing the role that family life feed our Parish and the whole Church, St. Louis the King is seeking to strengthen, support, and build our parish community with the cells of each one of the families that make it up. With Deacon Bill and Rachel McKnight as facilitators, the Family Life Ministry will try to reach out to, build up, and offer support to each one of the families that make up our beautiful parish. Many, many folks have already been

offering programs, prayer groups, classes, events, and other such offerings to serve God and the parish community in this way, so the Family Life Ministry is seeking to unify an approach so that all these offerings are speaking with a universal voice, and are offering words of faith, hope, and love to all the families of Saint Louis the King.

The mission of FLM: We seek to build up the families that build up our Church.

The vision of FLM: Starting with one family, who would extend a personal invitation to a successive family (and so on), the Family Life Ministry will bring together, support, and unify the families that make up Saint Louis the King. This should be a Christ centered relational ministry, each family loving and supporting its individual members. These members are strengthened by their bond with their family, with Christ, and with all others they invite to share in those bonds. Think of each person as a brick, every family as a wall, groups of families as a house, and each parish house making up the City of God.

The Values of the FLM: We are not a program; we are family relationships that extend from each of our own, to each one of the other family members of Saint Louis the King. We love

Christ, through our acts of love to one another. We seek to build each family up, so that it can stand on its own, but are made stronger through our bonds to one another. We want each Husband, Wife, and Child to be the head, hands, and heart of Christ. We realize that not every family looks like the Holy Family, but each can contain the heart of the Holy Family. Most of all, we seek to love each member of each family at Saint Louis the King, and the communities that they serve.

The Family Life Ministry will be coordinating efforts to make offerings to the families of Saint Louis the King. For Example:

Parish Family Retreat

Mass, potluck, and family fun nights.

Couples prayer series

Parent Connection during Faith Formation

Family prayer workshops

Baptismal preparation for families

Marriage preparation for couples

Faith and Life Family series

More information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, please pray for the ministry, as the life of our Church springs from the life of Christ, who invites us into the relationship of Family. If anyone has any questions, suggestions, or promptings of the Holy Spirit, please see Deacon Bill and/or Rachel, or e-mail deaconbillmcknight@outlook.com. Ephesians 5:21 and following “Be subject to one another, out of reverence for Christ...”

Faith formation—Children are our Future—By Rachel McKnight

Faith Formation of our children begins in our homes. Each of us creates a domestic church within our families and now more than ever, as we are isolated from our parish community, it is important to foster the faith of our children at home. When we gather as a parish family on Sunday to celebrate the Mass and share community, we can participate in the Religious Education program that St. Louis the King offers to our youth from pre-school age to eighth grade. Children that are not yet kindergarten age can participate in Children’s Church, offered during the 11:15 Mass. Grades Kindergarten thru eighth meet for one hour weekly on Sunday from 10-11am. Our Religious Education program would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteer catechists who give their time and talent (some of them year after year) to serve the children of our parish. Thank you for your knowl-

edge and caring spirits; Laura, Melanie, Sarah, Megan, and Paul.

We have 12 children that will be receiving their First Communion this year. Please pray for Raymond, Wesley, Alex, Liam, William, Timmy, Adia, Nora, Madi, Anna, Ella, and Aubry. When a date is finalized for their First Communion our parish family will be invited to participate in celebrating at the 11:15 Mass as well as a reception

following the Mass.

On Sunday from 8:45-12:15 Noah’s bud-dies nursery is open to all families with children newborn to pre-school age. Mrs. Lisa Gellar is our experienced nursery childcare provider. She has a loving approach and we are blessed to have her experience in our parish nursery. Families are welcome to leave their children with Ms. Lisa for Mass or for any activities during the Sunday experience.



Little
Church
Every
Sunday
11:15
Mass

Youth Ministry—A Whole Parish Approach—By Dustin Katona

As you all know, things change rapidly in youth culture and therefore efforts in evangelizing and discipling teens have to change as well in order to maintain effectiveness. The old methods won't work today. As Christ says in Mark's Gospel: "No one puts new wine into old wine skins; or else the new wine bursts the wine skins, the wine spilled, and wine skins are ruined. But new wine must be put in the new wine skins" (Mark 2:22).

As missionaries we do not seek to create cookie cutter catholic cultures. Rather we seek to baptize particular cultures, identifying the good within them, and using understood values to evaluate them to an understanding and acceptance of the teachings of the Church. In order for youth ministry to be successful, we must learn to listen to young people. We must learn to listen to their values, worries, and way of life – and where possible, we must find ways to teach and baptize what they value. The classroom will not be effective in this. It is not enough to have a curriculum, resources, structure, volunteers, participation, and events. If youth ministry at the parish does not meet a young person's primary pastoral needs, then youth ministry is not happening. If success is measured by discipleship - then youth ministry starts with a plan on meeting the youth's pastoral needs. To meet the basic pastoral needs of each person = lifelong discipleship!

What are the needs of teens in our age? First and foremost, all youth are people who desire to be understood. Second, every teen needs to belong. Third in understanding the needs of every teen, is the need for them to be transparent with trusted friends. Fourth, the need for critical thinking about the faith. Fifth, the need for guidance. Without guidance, the faith would have never been handed down to our own parents and countless generations of ancestors. Christ himself served as a Mentor and divine Guide for his first apostles and disciples of the faith. Likewise, his apostles and the first Church fathers and mothers had students that were followers, who listened and were guided and nourished spiritually by what



they shared in this guidance. The same goes with our youth; they are seeking a guide and someone to mentor them on this journey. Yet, here is the cultural problem – we are not mentoring. We need to change our approach - creating an environment and relationships in which their basic needs are met!

*The Two-fold Solution •

Small Group Discipleship youth ministry built around the adult volunteers or mentors and not necessarily around the gifts and the talents of one youth minister is the first part of the solution. I for one can't develop relationships with teens and dig into their lives if I have only 30 minutes with them each week. Instead, ask any teen, "How would you like it if you could simply meet with me or another adult once a week at a coffee shop (or online!) with a small group of your friends and could spend time digging into the questions that you have about God, sex, relationships, religion, and such and you could get these questions answered?" Most likely that teen is going to be excited about the change of pace and a new way in which they can finally dive into the things that they are concerned about. The first step is to find some holy men and women in your parish and have them draw a hand-

ful of teenagers into the lives for weekly mentoring. But think small in order to grow big. Raise saints – change the world.

The second part of this twofold solution is Parent-Focused Youth Outreach. Essentially, empowering parents to do the recruiting for a small group of teens and help identify an adult mentor for their teenager. You might ask the question, "How do we start?" The answer is by evangelization and out reach through parents. No one is more concerned about meeting the pastoral needs of a young person than their parents! With small group ministry in place, large group youth activities are made easy – simply have all the small group mentors come together with their groups.

The Mission

Empowering Teens to become Disciples of Christ

The Vision

To have every teen have an identifiable mentor and several friends who can hold each other accountable for growing in the Faith. That parents be engaged in the process of discipleship with their teens.

Coming Attractions

- ◆ *First Communion*
- ◆ *Mother's Day*
- ◆ *Blessing of the Bikes*
- ◆ *Faith Fest—Middle School Youth*
- ◆ *Steubenville- HS Youth*
- ◆ *Family Retreat*
- ◆ *Community Meal*
- ◆ *Parish Picnic*
- ◆ *Pumpkin Fest*

Little Church—By Stacy Boltz

A warm hello to our some of our youngest faith-filled members! We miss you!

As we continue to celebrate Mass at home, we wanted to provide parents with some resources to help communicate the Gospel in an understandable way to preschoolers. Two websites that are used to put together many of our Sunday lessons are:

catholicicing.com and sermons4kids.com. If you are able, please check them out. Both sites have readings and crafts, many of which only require common everyday items that you may have at home already. Please send pictures of your craft creations to Stacy at bolfms@gmail.com to share with the Parish on our website.

The Visible Signs of New Life and Transformation

In addition to being blessed with the most amazing sense of community that I have ever known, our parish family is blessed with the most beautiful building and grounds complex. We should be grateful for the foresight of those who have gone before us, those past and those still with us. The real beauty of our campus is the design to facilitate the build community. The narthex, the halls, Gauthier and Harris, the kitchen, the meeting and classrooms, the gazebo and grounds are designed to bring people together.

When I arrived as your pastor six years ago we were a bit financially challenged. We still had over \$100,000 remaining on our building mortgage. The parish family was a bit fatigued with capital campaigns. The building of our new church, narthex, offices, meeting and classrooms was a huge undertaking that took years to pay. Within a couple of years we paid the remaining mortgage balance and celebrated that milestone.

With the retirement of the mortgage attention then turned to deferred maintenance projects. It began with the necessary replacement of the roof on the Narthex.

We then moved to the floor of the narthex which included a new sub-floor and new carpeting. With the escalation of electrical rates we were motivated to convert all of our lighting to more energy efficient LED. A new bell system was installed as the electrical was being done.

Attention was then directed to Gauthier Hall. Much needed air-conditioning was installed to make summertime funeral lunches and other gatherings more comfortable. Then came updates to our kitchen. Out of necessity the frig and freezer needed to be replaced. Shortly thereafter, prompted by health department comments, new corion countertops were installed along with a new sink. Within the past couple of weeks new windows have been installed in Gauthier Hall. The new windows will provide much needed natural light and energy savings.

While Gauthier Hall was receiving upgrades, Harris Hall was getting a bit of a "facelift" as well. New ceiling tiles and new recessed LED lighting led the way. New paint and black-cherry stained chair-rail, trim and doors were installed. The improvements make the hall hardly recognizable from what it once was.

The office received some necessary upgrades with technology including a WIFI system and computers. A color laser copier was purchased to facilitate the publication of a higher quality and more attractive bulletin each week. It also gives us high speed scanning capabilities to keep paper costs down.

Even more visible improvements are the result of our amazing Garden Club that has taken on a life of its own. The grounds have never looked as beautiful as they do now. New landscaping is enhancing our grounds and flower gardens are coming to life. The gazebo has been stained and upgraded. A new playground and yard furniture has appeared. The vegetable and pumpkin garden was born. The cross on the front of Gauthier hall has been painted. The office overhang has been boxed in and insulated, the lower exterior of the church and the steps have been painted.

The above mentioned improvements are just some of the many projects that have come to life over the past

several years. The ever growing sense of ownership in this beautiful church of ours is the real beauty that I see. As pastor I want to express my gratitude for all of you who are make this parish so amazing! From Women's club and K of C fundraising, to donors of time, talent and treasure, THANK YOU!

Cost of Improvements

Narthex Roof	\$ 17,500
Narthex Floor	23,650
Church	
Lighting	14,500
Bell System	8,600
Gauthier Hall	
Air Conditioning	9,650
Windows	19,500
Kitchen	
Freezer	6,500
Frig	2,560
Counter Tops	9,800
Harris Hall	
LED lighting	3,000
Ceiling	2,000
Paint & trim	1,100
Office	
Computers	900
Copier	6,900
Total	\$ 126,160



Fr. Gauthier Hall



Fr. Harris Hall