



ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

Christ the King and Holy Spirit Churches

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Introducing Our New Parish Newsletter!

Welcome to the first issue of our new monthly parish newsletter!

As our parish community continues to grow and develop stewardship as a way of life, we have recognized the need for increased communication. Through this newsletter, we hope to share stories that will help us all to better understand who we are as Catholics and what we are doing as individual members of Christ's family. In upcoming issues, we will focus on what's going on in the Annunciation community, and how those activities and events are changing hearts and minds and helping parishioners grow closer to Christ and each other. Each article will ultimately focus on Christ at work within our community through the stewardship way of life.

Our hope is that this newsletter will be a successful means for ongoing education and formation in our faith. I pray it will be a vehicle through which you are informed and inspired to



become more actively involved in the life of Christ and the parish.

Another way I hope to improve our parish's communication efforts is through a comprehensive parish survey that will be conducted in Spring 2019. Through the survey, I want to hear from you regarding our parish and its future. A survey will be mailed to each home, and then I will ask you to take the time to fill it out and return it as soon as possible. Your input will be very important, and it will give the Parish Council

and me a better understanding of your thoughts about our parish.

Perhaps the most important next step in our stewardship journey will occur this November, when we conduct our Annual Stewardship Renewal. The Renewal is the time each year when we ask each other to re-prioritize the way we use God's gifts in the Church. It is the time we write down how we will become more devoted to Christ over the next year with our commitments of time

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What Does **STEWARDSHIP** *Mean?*

What comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship”?

Do you think of it as just another way to talk about money? Do you quickly dismiss it as a notion that has nothing to do with being Catholic?

Stewardship is actually a concept that is Scripturally based, and is absolutely vital to our life as Catholics. God tells us, in the very first book of the Old Testament, “Be fertile and multiply. Fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and all the living things that move on the earth” (Gen 1:28).

What does that mean to us today? It simply means that God is telling us, “This is yours, so take care of it.” One of the first things God tells us to do is to be good stewards of the gifts He has entrusted to us!

The Old Testament is not the only place where we can find references to stewardship. Indeed, of the 36 parables in the New Testament, more than half of them deal with time, talent, possessions, or money. Therefore, if Jesus spoke of stewardship that much, it should be a very important part of our lives!

As Catholics, we refer to the three facets of stewardship as “time, talent, and treasure.” Although these are three concrete ways to express and measure stewardship, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops tells us that stewardship is part of discipleship. Stewardship is a way of responding to God’s call in every aspect of our lives.

The Scriptures and Church traditions teach us one important point that cannot be overstated —

that stewardship is primarily based on our need to give in gratitude, not on the Church’s need to receive. Of course, both the Catholic Church and our particular parish will always need money. However, we are not asked to give simply to defray costs and fund charitable programs. We are instead asked to remember our need to gratefully return a portion of our time, talent, and treasure to God, recognizing all that He has given to us.

It is important to remember that stewardship is a way of life, and not a program. True Catholic stewardship involves an ongoing call to live as followers of Christ. It takes time to find and define personal goals. You can begin by examining your personal commitments to the parish. How do you live your faith in your daily life with your family and friends? How much time do you spend in daily prayer, going to Mass or being involved in parish ministries and activities? What percentage of your income should you give back to God every week? What talents do you have that could be used to strengthen our parish family?

The coming months will see us increasing and intensifying our education and communication on stewardship. We will be developing a better understanding of how stewardship is a way of responding to God’s call to discipleship. And with God’s help, changes will occur in each of our hearts as we devote ourselves to a stewardship renewal within our parish. Examine how you are currently responding to God’s call to stewardship. If God called you home tomorrow, would He proclaim, “Well done, my good and faithful servant”?

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THE LEADER IN ME PROGRAM LAUNCHED AT CHRIST THE KING AND HOLY SPIRIT CAMPUSES

Students Learn Leadership, Values and Virtues



Nearly 30 years ago, a man named Stephen Covey published a book titled *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. It has sold more than 25 million copies. In this book, Covey promotes something he calls “the character ethic” in which he places morals, values and virtues on a higher plane than most measures of success. Much of his ethical approach is very much in keeping with our Catholic values and our understanding of stewardship.

That book and its recommendations have been formulated into a program for schools called The Leader in Me. Our Annunciation School is launching that program on both our Christ the King and Holy Spirit campuses this year. This program combines the best of Covey’s principles with Pope Francis’ five signs of holiness — inner strength from the Lord, a joyful sense of humor, passionate boldness, community and constant prayer.

“We wanted to do something which would affect all of our

students, something which enhanced their Catholic faith while it also made them each a leader and a more effective person,” says Mr. David Memmer, Principal at Holy Spirit. “The Leader in Me program lends itself so well to the Catholic model. We are all called to be saints, not just leaders.”

The Leader in Me provides us with seven organized keys to leadership — being proactive and self-aware; beginning with the end in mind and having a plan; putting “first things first” and prioritizing work before play; thinking in terms of “win-win” so that everyone may benefit; “seeking first to understand, then to be understood,” as in listening before speaking; synergize, as in “together is better”; and sharpen the saw, as in “balance feels best.”

“Of course, everything is more clearly presented to the students with an opportunity for them to truly understand and appreciate the importance of each factor,” Mr. Memmer says. “The basic idea is that each child will gain

an understanding of God’s gifts to them, and how they can best use those gifts. Every person, every child, has the capability of being a leader and that involves so many things. This is a clear and organized way to present it.”

The Leader in Me program is called a “Whole School Transformation Process.” As noted in its presentation, “The program teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader. It provides a logical, sequential, and balanced process to help schools and students proactively design the culture that reflects their vision of the ideal school.”

“Lots of preparation and planning has gone into this,” Mr. Memmer says. “Each of our teachers and administrators attends a two-day training session to prepare. This is a three-year program, and we are just beginning. People will hear more and learn more as time passes.”

For more information, contact Mr. Matt Moore, Principal of Christ the King, at 812-476-1792; or Mr. David Memmer, Principal of Holy Spirit, at 812-477-9082.



NICK BIEVER *Reflecting on Life at Annunciation*

As new seminarian Nick Biever could tell you, calls to the priesthood can come at anytime, anywhere! This was certainly the case for Nick, who became a parishioner of Annunciation when his family moved to the area about nine years ago. While many priests and seminarians might share stories of hearing God call them during Mass or adoration, Nick was surprised to experience a very distinct call while watching a television show about superheroes!

“I thought about being a priest in high school, but at that time, I was more interested in making money, so I decided to go into computers,” Nick says. “I think I really heard the call gradually throughout my life until sophomore year of college. That year, I was watching a superhero TV show, and there was misinformation given about Catholics. When that line was said, I thought, ‘No! Someone needs to tell everyone that’s not right!’

And then there was a little voice in the back of my head saying, ‘Why don’t you do it?’”

Over the next three nights, Nick prayed earnestly over the question. The first night, he contemplated a vocation to marriage and what that might look like in his life. On the second night, he instead envisioned a vocation to the priesthood. He then spent the third night weighing the pros and cons of each, and although he concluded that either of these vocations might make him happy, he felt a draw to the priesthood and knew that it was something he had to explore.

After meeting with Fr. Alex for guidance in his discernment, Nick decided to go ahead and finish up his degree in computer information systems at the University of Southern Indiana before entering seminary. Having graduated from USI this May, he began his classes at St. Meinrad Seminary last month.

While the time and place that



First-year seminarian Nick Biever

Nick heard a distinct vocation to the priesthood might have been a little unexpected, those who know him well, including his family, were not at all surprised by it.

“I come from a very active Catholic family,” Nick says. “I was homeschooled until college, and my parents made sure I got my theology in. My grandma is

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— FIRST-YEAR SEMINARIAN

BIEVER

on and His Call to the Priesthood

also very Catholic, and she is one of the reasons I started going to daily Mass during my junior year of college. When I told my family [about the call], they weren't too surprised. My mom said something like, 'It's about time!'"

In addition to the strong faith foundation nurtured by his parents, Nick was also positively influenced by parish life here at Annunciation.

"I started serving Mass at Holy Spirit when we first joined the parish, and I also became a sacristan at Christ the King," he says. "I would say that serving has really kept that little nudge going about being a priest, because it really teaches you about the Mass, so you're not just daydreaming. I also got to know Fr. Alex very well, and Fr. Pascal, too."

Once Nick discerned a vocation to the priesthood, it changed the way he lived out his last two years at the university as he began to understand the great value in cultivating close friendships

that provide mutual support. By going on retreats sponsored by the university's Newman Center and attending daily Mass at St. Benedict Cathedral, Nick formed many friendships — some with other students who have also become seminarians in our diocese — that he knows will stay with him throughout life.

Nick is excited to be starting his first year of study as a seminarian, and eagerly looks forward to the day he will be able to serve our diocese as an ordained priest.

"I'm looking forward to just helping people in their best and worst times in life, funerals but also weddings — I love weddings!" he says. "I'll enjoy just spending time with parishioners and helping them go through the sacraments, helping the parishioners become better people, and then have them help me a little bit, too."

While Nick happily anticipates life as a seminarian, he knows

that it will also bring its own challenges. When it does, he will likely turn to his Confirmation saint, St. Simon Stock — whose brown scapular he has worn for years — or to his favorite Scripture, the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, whose great faith in the Lord saved them from harm in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:16-28).

When he is not studying, praying or at Mass, you might be likely to find Nick spending his free time building computers, reading *Star Wars* books, playing euchre or enjoying his favorite food creation — sausage pizza topped with Girl Scout thin mint cookies!

Reflecting on his formative years at Annunciation and looking forward to his time in seminary, Nick would like to share his gratitude with our parishioners.

"Thanks for being there for me and helping me develop into the person I am today," he says. "And definitely pray for me!"

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SEMINARIAN NICK BIEVER



MEETING CHRIST IN THE POOR: *The Society of*

Roland Rosario, who currently serves as the President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, recalls one time when this ministry of compassion and service made a major impact on someone in need.

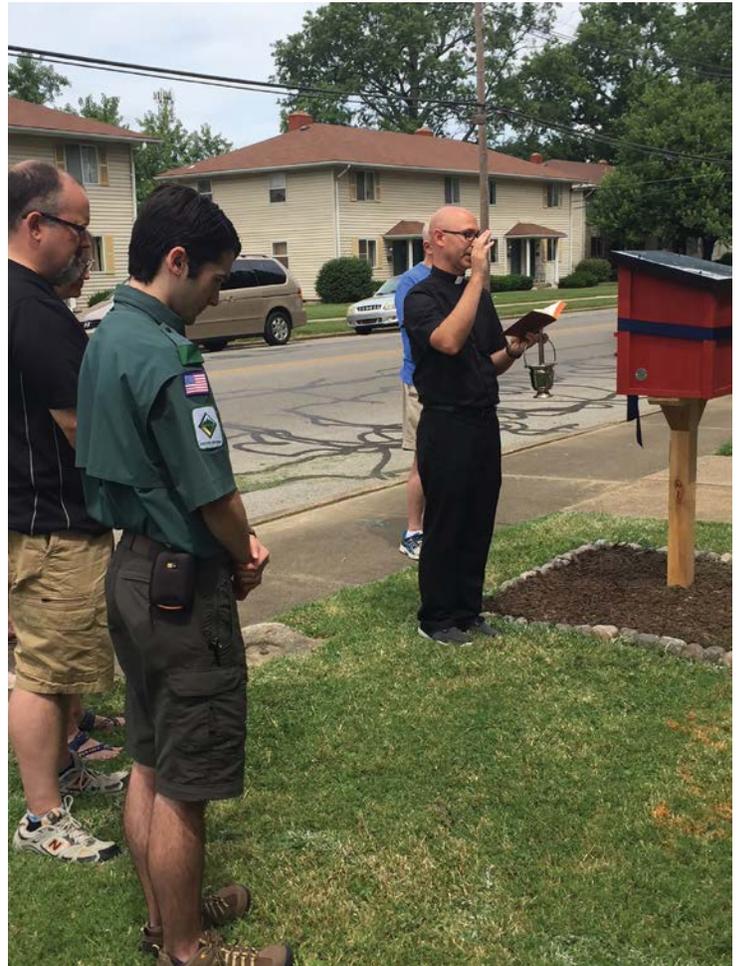
“We went and met a lady who has three children,” Roland says. “The youngest is 10 years old and was diagnosed with brain cancer and began treatments. She’s already low income, already struggling to meet bills — and then this hits. She’s been trying to figure out how to keep the rest of her life going, how to keep her other children in school, with all these hospital bills, and recently, she was kind of at the end of her rope and didn’t know what to do. She was facing utility shut-off notices and wasn’t even going to be able to keep her power on. So we ended up helping her.

“That’s a pretty typical situation — not necessarily the brain cancer diagnosis, but a situation that we would talk to a family about, they’ve come across a hard path and are having trouble keeping their lights on or staying in their apartment,” Roland adds.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) was founded by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, in France, in 1833, with a vision to care for the poor, in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul. It came to the United States in 1845, and since then, has been a major way that the Church has served those in need throughout our local communities. The type of assistance they provide ranges from help with rent and utilities, to help with budgeting and providing companionship.

The members of SVdP meet each month on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Christ the King, and weekly on Tuesday mornings at Holy Spirit. The heart of their work is the home visits, which involve pairs of SVdP members going to visit those who have requested help, so they can get to know the person and discern the best way to meet their needs.

“The home visit is the core of what we do in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and it goes back



Recently, a Little Free Library — sponsored by SVdP and installed in partnership with an Eagle Scout candidate — was dedicated by Fr. Alex, in one of our frequently visited neighborhoods.

to the patron, who would visit the poor,” Roland says. “The format is pretty simple, people go out in pairs, based on who calls in. We’ll sit and talk with them and see what conditions they’re living in and what their request for assistance is.

“The founders and St. Vincent de Paul recognized that when we go to meet a person, we meet Christ and Christ is present in this encounter, both for us, and for the person we’re visiting,” he adds. “We sit and talk and discover their needs.

St. Vincent de Paul

“We believe the words of Jesus Himself that if you serve the poor — if you clothe the naked, feed the hungry — if you do those things for the poor, you do it for Him. We meet Christ in a very real and concrete way, in the poor. We learn how to love better and we learn to be more ourselves and we become happier. Come and see!”

— *ROLAND ROSARIO, SVdP SOCIETY PRESIDENT*

We help people identify the resources available to them. It's very much about understanding their needs and being a friend.”

Roland has found that not only does his service help others, but that he's been impacted as well.

“It's an opportunity to go outside of myself,” he says. “Visiting the poor pulls our gaze away from ourselves and outward. It puts things in a different perspective.”

Roland encourages his fellow parishioners to consider if God might be calling them to serve the poor through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



“There's people from all walks of life — young old, people who are working or retired,” Roland says. “We need all types of people. It's an invitation extended to everybody.”

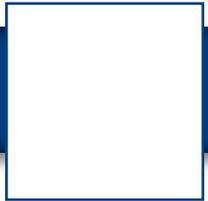
“We believe the words of Jesus Himself that if you serve the poor — if you clothe the naked, feed the hungry — if you do those things for the poor, you do it for Him,” Roland adds. “We meet Christ in a very real and concrete way, in the poor. We learn how to love better and we learn to be more ourselves and we become happier. Come and see! Come and see if what I'm saying is true.”

If you would like more information or to become involved in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, please contact the parish office at 812-476-3061, or you can reach Roland Rosario directly at 937-902-9417.



ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

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(using our time on earth wisely; making time for personal prayer, family prayer, and quality time with friends and loved ones); talent (using our God-given gifts to strengthen the Church through service to parish ministries and other activities), and treasure (the wise and just management of our financial resources; giving a proportionate amount of my income to the parish).

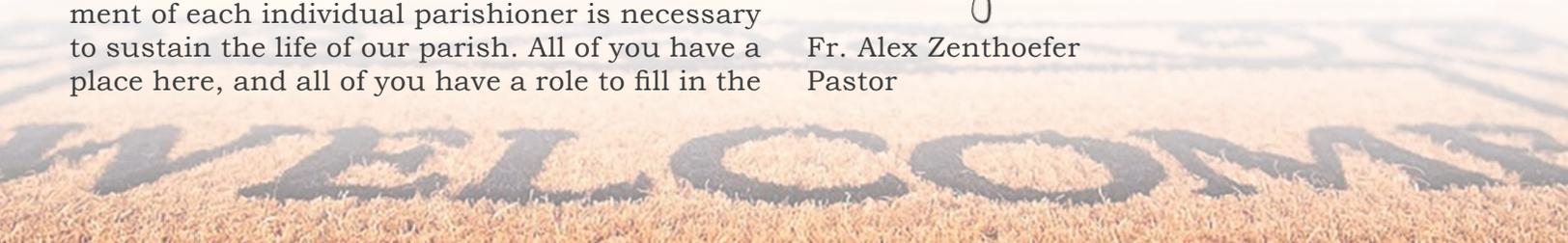
As we strive to develop stewardship as a way of life at Annunciation, the support and involvement of each individual parishioner is necessary to sustain the life of our parish. All of you have a place here, and all of you have a role to fill in the

life of the parish as we live our lives as disciples of Christ.

May the Holy Spirit renew and refresh all of us as we work together to build our parish family through the use of our time, talent and treasure.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Alex Zenthoefer
Pastor



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Holy Spirit: Saturday: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 9:00 a.m. | Tuesday: 6:00 p.m., Wednesday: 8:30 a.m.

Christ the King: Saturday: 5:30 p.m. | Sunday: 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (No weekday Mass when a funeral is scheduled at CTK)

Monday: 7:45 a.m., Tuesday: 7:45 a.m., Thursday: 8:30 a.m., Friday: 7:45 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. at Holy Spirit | Saturday: 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. at Christ the King