

Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



A Look at Our Respect Life Ministry

Upholding the Sanctity of Life at All Stages

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Get to Know
Fr. Jim White

In the midst of the chaos of the past several months, we have all struggled in some way. Unfortunately, there is no one who remains unaffected by the challenges of a world in crisis. However, there are those for whom the disruption of normality has brought an additional burden, as they also bear the weight of an unplanned pregnancy. And perhaps more than ever, these mothers and babies need our support.

Here at Queen of the Holy Rosary, our Respect Life Ministry serves to assist those in need, as well as help educate, inform and empower our parishioners to become involved in this important area.

“As a mother of six kids, I feel really attuned to moms and their babies,” says parishioner Judy Dowd, who has served to coordinate our Respect Life Ministry for a number of years. “Particularly for women who don’t have family support, who have nothing and find themselves in this situation, they need help! It’s so important for those little ones, and I want to help in any way I can.”

The group offers a number of different opportunities to be involved throughout the year, from working to affect pro-life legislation, to spiritually “adopting” and praying for expectant mothers and their children, to raising funds to support local crisis pregnancy centers. They also work to provide voting resources and are currently working “behind the scenes” to implement a new ministry which will provide support to women facing unplanned pregnancies directly through our parish.

“It’s a new ministry that will be in each parish,” Judy says. “There will be a woman who’s called an ‘angel,’ and she’ll be working with pregnant women in need, listening to them and guiding them and helping them with resources, connecting them with the parish because, oftentimes, these ladies have no community support.

“I hope the women feel loved and accepted,” she adds. “Sometimes when they find themselves in that situation, they may feel that they’re totally by themselves





GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF OUR *Social Media*

When we are talking about the idea of stewardship and how we care for the tools and gifts we have been given, it is not often that we stop to have a conversation about how we are caring for and using the gift of social media to positively spread Gospel values. However, this is an appropriate topic for us to consider when we are talking about the many young people, as well as adults, who gather online on a frequent basis. Therefore, it is important for us to think about how we are using the amazing gifts of technology.

If you are frequently online — especially on Pinterest — there is a popular acronym that you may have already come across. While it is used in many different contexts, it seems very appropriate to follow as we find ourselves posting statuses and pictures on various social media sites. The acronym is T.H.I.N.K., and it invites us to consider what we are saying and sharing, and whether or not it should be said!

Is what we are posting:

TTrue? Are we sharing factual information or a rumor that we heard, and if we think our information is factual, what is our source? Is it trustworthy?

Helpful? Is the information we are sharing something that can be useful to another person? We don't need to over-examine all of our content to consider its "educational factor," but is the content we are posting

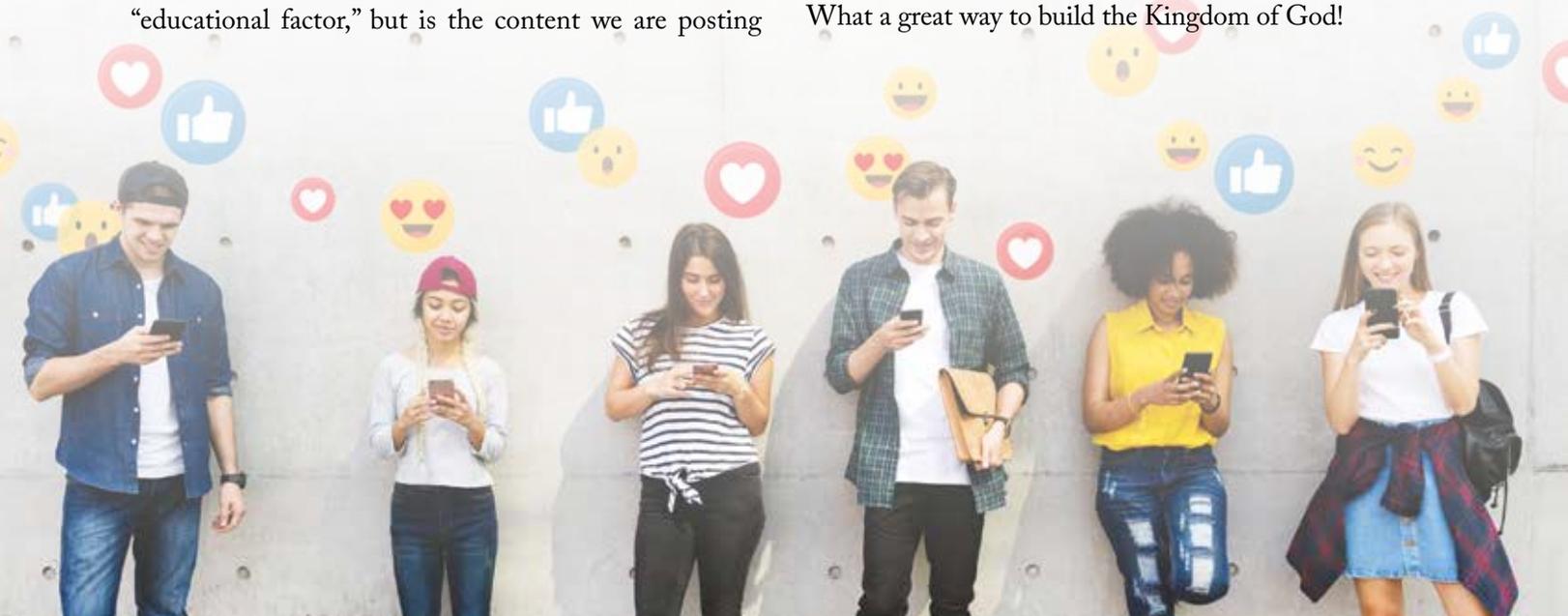
going to help someone learn about us, learn about a place or an activity, think about the world, reflect on life, engage us in laughter, and so forth?

Inspirational? There is certainly no requirement to be a poet or an artist, but social media has become a wonderful outlet for positive self-expression. "Positive" is the key word — are we posting to inspire others about the good in our world, or are we posting to cut someone down or to simply rant?

Nice? Have we considered the feelings of others when we include them in a status or post a picture of them? Will they be embarrassed? Are we using social media to humiliate and intimidate others, or are we using it to try to better the world and the lives of others?

Kind? What a great tool to compliment, show gratitude, and build the self-esteem of those you care about!

People often speak of social media in a negative way because of the content they see posted. T.H.I.N.K. is a great way for us to remind ourselves that we can be good stewards of our own social media use. A major part of living out the Gospel has to do with the positive way we approach this life and bring God's light and love to others — and we can do just that by sharing an uplifting status on Facebook, a Tweet of gratitude to a friend, or a beautiful image of God's inspiring creation on Instagram. What a great way to build the Kingdom of God!





A Letter From Our Pastor

Passionate for the Stewardship Way of Life

Dear Parishioners,

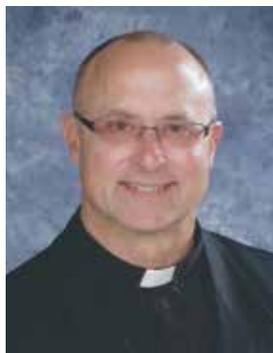
Often when reading the Acts of the Apostles and Epistles in the New Testament, I recognize that the writers were genuinely passionate about having an opportunity to put into words an expression of the faith they have in Jesus Christ. I am inspired by the passion expressed by those who live what they believe. Having the courage and the enthusiasm to express their thoughts, and to embrace and cherish it as if it were the most important thing in the world, translates into a passion for Christ and a passion to be His disciple.

I ask myself on a regular basis, do I have that same passion as Jesus' disciples? I pray that I do. But if I don't, I have to wonder why, and must reflect upon what is keeping me from being passionate about my faith. Without being genuinely passionate about our faith, can any of us genuinely embrace the stewardship way of life?

The Food Network broadcasts a program called *Chopped*, which features professional chefs who are challenged to use designated ingredients to prepare a dish. Using the time they have been given, and the skills and talents they possess, they must compete against each other while attempting to impress a panel of judges. In what they say and do, their passion for who they are and what they can do with all that has been given them is more than obvious. They demonstrate confidence, enthusiasm, creativity and a desire to use their talent. Even if they get eliminated, they know they have done their best — and will continue to do so, with an ongoing passion.

Should we not have the same kind of passion for being a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Stewardship is the best way to passionately express and live out our call to be a disciple of Christ. The New Testament is filled with passages that confirm the stewardship way of life. How passionate are we about being faithful stewards using the gifts given to us by God, and using our precious time for the greater glory of God? How do we move from merely thinking



that stewardship is something others do, to being passionate about it enough to live our lives as a committed disciple of Christ? It isn't possible to be truly passionate about something unless we are genuinely convinced it is God's will, and we know it and feel it in our hearts. Genuine passion begins in the heart. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, our hearts are ignited to believe that the Word of God is calling each of us to express our love and devotion to Him

— and we can do this by living out the stewardship life. Do you think we are up to that? Well, to do so is to be passionate about it.

I pray and hope that we all become better and more passionate about being disciples of the Lord. I believe there is great potential for all of us. If we trust God enough to do what it takes to be passionate about the stewardship way of life, our lives will become the truest expression of discipleship. While the world tries to convince us there are other things to be passionate about, our hearts should be telling us loud and clear that the stewardship way of life is the most important. It always has been, and it always will be.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. William Bruning
Pastor





OUR ANNUAL *Stewardship*

You have to take care of yourself before you can take care of those you love. This rationale is difficult for many of us to accept. Mothers and fathers routinely place the needs of their children before their own; soldiers at war often throw their own safety to the wind in the interest of protecting their fellow soldiers. Jesus also focuses on giving to others. If Christ calls us to imitate Him – to become completely selfless – then it would seem that focusing on ourselves might counteract our efforts as Christians.

Nevertheless, as we enter into our annual Stewardship Renewal, Fr. Bill is asking us all to focus a bit more on ourselves. No, he’s not encouraging self-centeredness; he’s asking us to examine our own lives and determine the areas that are in need of growth. Before the stewardship way of life can totally transform our parish, it must begin in each of our hearts. As each individual’s spiritual life blossoms and grows, so will our parish as a whole. Will you plant the seed of stewardship in your own heart?

This has most certainly been a trying and unusual year, as we have navigated through uncharted waters. In the face of great uncertainty or difficulty, it is easy to become complacent. Yet, this is not what God calls us to do. We are called to live stewardship as a way of life — in the good, bad or uncertain times!

*Commitment Weekend is
October 24-25. Don't forget to return
your Commitment Card to the parish!*

How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your commitment card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

Time Section: Everyone should be able to check the boxes to commit to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days or to view the Masses online during the crisis. In addition to those commitments, try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God. We recognize

that the current crisis may impact your ability to carry out your commitments. Know the Lord sees what is in your heart and is pleased with your best efforts.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries and/or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to Queen of the Holy Rosary.

Is your prayer life in need of a tune-up?

Honestly ask yourself, “How much time do I spend in prayer each week?” The answer is probably a bit embarrassing. Everyone wants to spend more time in prayer, but there’s just never enough time to do everything we want to do. Good intentions are just that: intentions. This year, as you’re discerning how you will offer your time to God, resolve to follow through with your commitments. Consider each moment you spend in prayer as nourishment for your soul. The spiritual health of our parish is only as strong as the sum of its parts (individual parishioners).

Is your level of parish involvement in need of a boost?

We give our talents back to God when we get involved in ministries at Queen of the Holy Rosary. And, with a host of ministries to choose from, there’s something for everyone. Sure, ministries give parishioners opportunities to serve others in the community, but they also benefit those in the ministry itself. Ask anyone who actively participates in a ministry at Queen of the Holy Rosary, “Why do you enjoy serving in this way?” They’ll probably say, “I get more out of the ministry than the people I serve.” This year, as you’re discerning how you will offer your talents to God, consider signing up for a ministry that may benefit you, like a Bible study, prayer group, or retreat. Or, contribute to an outreach ministry where your good deeds not only help others in the community, but also give you feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness.



Stewardship Renewal

Do you give a percentage of your income to the offertory?

It may be hard to see offertory giving as a way to “help yourself,” but when we approach the subject from a spiritual viewpoint, it can lead to individual spiritual growth and an increase in faith. Even the most savvy businessperson worries about his or her personal finances from time to time. Adding a weekly offertory check to the list of monthly bills may seem hard but, ultimately, sacrificial giving forces us to cut unnecessary spending, create a budget and have faith that God will help us make it through the month. All of these are good things for each of us, individually. After faithfully giving to the offertory for a few months, many Catholics find that it’s not only possible to give a weekly offering, but that the fruits of their gift far outweigh the expense.

At Queen of the Holy Rosary, we ask that you give five percent to our parish, one percent to the archdiocese, and four percent to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10 percent) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10). Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.

Gratefulness

2020 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

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Every parish family receives a special “Stewardship Package” that further explains our parish’s vision of stewardship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your commitment card.



Priest, Potter,

Here at Queen of the Holy Rosary, we are blessed to have the joyful presence of a retired priest who still gives of his time to our parish community.

“You can call me Fr. Jim, Fr. White or — as some parishioners say — Fr. Egg White!” says Fr. Jim White.

As his nickname implies, Fr. White is certainly a notable presence on our parish campus, especially as he sells the fresh eggs from his chickens each Monday morning after Mass. Although we have been forced to suspend the Monday Masses for now due to the pandemic, we hope to resume them soon and are thankful that Fr. White has continued to serve God’s people in his retirement — not just here at Queen of the Holy Rosary, but in several parishes around the diocese.

Fr. White grew up on a farm between Wamego and St. Marys. St. Marys was established by the Jesuits in the 1840s as a mission to the Potawatomi people. The positive influence of the local Jesuit community led Fr. White to enter their religious order in 1962. He was assigned a teaching position at Rockhurst High School for a time before being sent to St. Louis to complete his four years of theological studies. Following his June 3, 1971, ordination to the priesthood, Fr. White returned to the high school to teach pottery and other visual arts.

After almost 20 years as a pottery teacher, Fr. White went back to school once more, this time for a master’s degree in Spirituality. He then served in western Kansas before returning to our archdiocese as the spiritual director for priests until his retirement.

Now, when Fr. White is not saying Mass, you are likely to find him tending to his 200-plus chickens and extensive fruit and vegetable gardens. There, he grows everything from green beans and sweet corn, to strawberries and turnips, to mustard greens and lettuce, depending on the season. Nothing brings Fr. White greater joy than sharing his hard-earned



Fr. Jim White with his pet rooster, Frank, who is named for Pope Francis.

bounty with the many parishioners he serves. He loves to sell his eggs after Mass and often hands out his surplus produce. Even during the COVID-19 crisis, he has continued to send eggs and produce to Queen of the Holy Rosary through Parish Administrator Paul Coquillette.

Caring for his chickens and gardens each day requires a lot of hard work, but Fr. White is more than happy to spend so much time with God’s creation.

“I am a ‘green’ person,” Fr. White says. “I love recycling. A man came out to fix a leaking toilet for me and told me I needed to put in a new toilet. So they were taking out the old one, and I told them



Farmer:

GET TO KNOW FR. JIM WHITE

to leave it on my driveway. I took a sledgehammer out there and made gravel out of it. I have a rock gravel lane to where I live, and I have one spot that is constantly muddy, so I added it to that spot. So, now I have even recycled a toilet!”

Fr. White cites Pope Francis’s *Laudato si’* as a particularly inspiring work and has even named his new pet rooster “Frank” in the pope’s honor.

With so many years spent working with his hands — whether it be nurturing the land or shaping raw clay into art — Fr. White has many wonderful experiences to draw from for his homilies. Preaching and teaching the people is one of his favorite aspects of life in the priesthood. Upon reflection, he realizes that, although he has a cabinet full of commentaries on Scripture at home, some of his best homilies are based on his personal stories.

“It’s nice to say Mass, and I try to say Mass carefully for the people,” Fr. White says. “My attachment to Jesus is paramount, and I’m able to communicate that with the stories I can tell about my relationship with Him. I have many stories from my childhood growing

up. I can share how the things I experienced as a child transferred into a good spirituality. So, parishioners know the story about cutting weeds in the corn field with my dad and the story about my grandmother’s pie.

“Working with the soil, plants and chickens sharpens my imagination,” he continues. “I know that I have to say something in the homily that people can relate to, so I really think about them when I prepare my homilies.”

During times of rest from tending his land, Fr. White loves to read. He enjoys reading about the lives of saints and, most especially, the Scriptures. Thus, his advice to anyone wishing to enrich their faith life is simple.

“Get really familiar with the Gospels,” Fr. White says. “Make your relationship to Jesus really personal — that is Ignatian spirituality.”

Here at Queen of the Holy Rosary, we are blessed to have Fr. Jim White share with us his farm-fresh eggs and produce, his delightful stories, and his deep devotion to both God’s Word and His creation!

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Respect Life Ministry *continued from front cover*

and nobody cares. We want them to know we do care, they are important, and we'll do anything we can to help them."

Although this year will look a bit different, the ministry often hosts a number of different events for Respect Life Month each October. In the past, we have hosted pro-life speakers, as well as participated in the annual Life Chain event, reminding people of the dignity of human life in all its stages.

While much of the ministry's focus is on working for an end to abortion, they also hope to have an impact in the realm of end-of-life protection and other pro-life issues. Our parish Respect Life Ministry serves to help parishioners become connected to our broader archdiocesan pro-life initiatives, supported by Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann,

who serves as the Chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"We're just trying to make the public aware of pro-life issues as something they should think about," Judy says. "It's to keep it at the forefront of peoples' minds and to let them know there are things that they can do and they need to think about.

"Abortion is just the beginning, and a huge part of it, but it's not the only thing," she adds.

Judy hopes that other parishioners will consider becoming involved in this important ministry.

"The heart of the ministry is just protecting life, no matter what stage — looking out for everyone," she says. "We're all children of God, we should all be protected, and do all we can to help each other. We're in this together."

If you would like more information, or to learn how you can become involved in the Respect Life Ministry at Queen of the Holy Rosary, please contact Judy Dowd at 913-839-3535. You can also learn more about diocesan pro-life initiatives at <https://www.archkck.org/prolife>.

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

DAILY MASS

Tuesday - Friday: 8:15 a.m. | First Saturday: 8:15 a.m.