



# Christ The King Spring Newsletter

2020



**MAY THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST BE ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS**

*"Your constant love is my guide; your faithfulness always leads me" Palms 26:3*

Dear Friends,

Where did time go? As the last couple of months have flown by, I can only begin to think about the change in the seasons. The days are slowly getting longer, the mornings are a bit drier and crisper than the month before, and it's during this time of year, that the trees begin to sprout new buds, and everything looks a little more alive.

It's during this time of year, in Spring, we begin to see last year fade further away and we become a little more grateful for the things we have in front of us.

When I reflect on my short time at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center, I realize how much of a blessing the Center and Community have been. It's become more evident that I am following the cookie crumbs that God has placed in my path.

Some have asked where I came from, others are quietly curious, and even more, have surrounded me with their acceptance. In perspective, it's this type of situation that God sees us in all our glory. Sometimes we feel less than; other times we feel God's presence and love, while we hope He's walking with us, imagining Him carrying us at times and eventually living our lives as we believe He'd want us to do so.

So, as you read this, you may be wondering what cookie crumbs I speak about. If I were to think of my life, I'd section it in three, for now. The first consisting of my experience as a restaurateur, capital campaigns, events and hospitality, the second section includes my experience with my education in Human Development and Public Health and my third section being global humanitarian work and my faith journey. Each experience leading to the next. Ultimately, leaving me with a full heart serving our community.

Cookie crumbs. This has been my path. Per Saint Francis of Assisi "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

Every day I wake up wondering how I got here. You may feel the same. Thinking of whether or not my childhood dreams have been fulfilled and realizing that today is not what I would have ever imagined but instead something much more. So as I thank you for your open arms and acceptance as I fill this position as Executive Director, I hope you will join me. Whether that is picking up your cookie crumbs and sharing your stories or leaving the cookie crumbs for others to follow. God bless you.

In gratitude,

Natalie A. Svistoonoff



## Welcome Natalie to Christ the King

Natalie Svistoonoff is the new Executive Director at Christ the King. She started in December, 2019. While Natalie is originally from Citrus Heights, CA she spent 16 years in San Diego, CA pursuing her education and various experiences in restaurant entrepreneurship, hospitality, program management and humanitarian work. She has a Master's degree in Public Health and is excited to be able to share her vast experience with our CTK Community.

**Welcome Natalie to the Passionist Family!**



## Best Wishes to Fr. Giltus Mathias

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Fr. Giltus with a surprise farewell luncheon. Many community members attended Mass earlier that morning. A special program filled with musical entertainment and dancing was enjoyed by all who were there. Fr. Giltus's new assignment is in New Zealand, where he will serve as the new Superior of the Passionist Community as Pastor of Star of the Sea Parish. Fr. Giltus left in early January with a stopover in India to visit his family. He was at Christ the King for over 3 years and will be greatly missed.





## 2019 Celebrations at CTK

### **Autumn Splendor Gala-A Night in Venice**

Our second Annual Splendor Gala took place on October 5, 2019 and was a great success with over 100 guests in attendance. The theme was *A Night in Venice*. Guests wore festive masks for the evening. A contest was held for best mask. The event also included Mass, social, sit-down dinner, silent and live auctions, and dancing. Many thanks to all who supported our Gala event by donating, volunteering, and/or by attending the Event. We look forward to our next Gala which will be

**Saturday, October 3, 2020. Save the Date!**





## 2019 Celebrations at CTK Cont....



### Ladies Guild Christmas Luncheon

Our Ladies Guild held their annual Christmas luncheon and fundraiser on December 17. Table hostesses decorated their tables with individual décor and themes. Each hostess had the opportunity to invite guests to join them at their table. Christ the King hosted four tables for staff and volunteers. Everyone enjoyed a delightful lunch prepared by our chefs Deanna and Cori. A raffle was held for beautiful gifts along with games and entertainment, including a visit from St. Nicholas. There were 120 people in attendance.



### Las Posadas

On December 9, Christ the King held its annual celebration of Las Posadas. This tradition recreates Mary and Joseph's journey to find lodging for Mary to give birth to Jesus. A group representing the Holy Family moved outside from door to door around the Center, singing songs and asking for lodging. They were refused each time until they reached the Quinn Room where the travelers were finally permitted to enter. Prayer and song continued. Everyone enjoyed a feast of festive foods, including homemade tamales. The evening concluded with the children having fun with a piñata.

### Simbang Gabi

The Filipino tradition of Simbang Gabi, a nine day Novena in preparation for Christmas, was celebrated December 15-23 at Christ the King. Evening Mass was held in the chapel. On the last evening Mass was held in the Quinn Room. Delicious food was share in celebration and fellowship following Mass.



### New Year Retreat at CTK

Our annual overnight New Year retreat provides retreatants the opportunity for prayer and reflection, followed by a social to celebrate and to ring in the New Year together.





## Development News- Sandra Gill

### Supporting Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center

Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center is dedicated to sustaining the vision of our founder, St. Paul of the Cross by offering retreats and ministry activities intended to provide spiritual renewal and growth. Donations provide support to on-going programs, provide retreat scholarships, and care for the beautiful buildings, gardens and grounds at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center.

**Monthly Gifts:** Recurring donations are a great way to help us plan for the future – making a commitment to a monthly gift over a period of a year or longer. If you are already giving monthly, consider increasing your gift in 2020. You can make an online gift (recurring or one-time) or download a form to mail in from our website: [www.christthekingretreatcenter.org](http://www.christthekingretreatcenter.org).

**Required IRA Distributions Giving:** To reduce the tax impact of required minimum distributions income, you may want to consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to CTK. *Please consult your professional advisor for assistance.*

**Become a Volunteer:** Consider donating your time. Volunteer opportunities include: weekend retreat Host/Hostess, general event support, babysitting, Parish Coordinator, grounds/maintenance. Please contact the Development Office if you are interested in volunteering.

**St. Paul of the Cross Memorial Garden: We have only 22 spaces to complete!** Remember YOUR brick(s) can be personalized in memory of loved ones or in celebration of family and friendships. Be a part of the Community story that has been shared in the garden and leave a lasting legacy at Christ the King. You can order online or download an order form through our website.

**Diamond Jubilee: Let it Shine Capital Campaign** planning is underway to raise funds to make many needed repairs and upgrading to the retreat center over a period of 5 years, in time for the celebration of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. The projects to be done include:

- HVAC replacement in both the Holy Cross and Chapel buildings (currently in progress).
- ADA Compliance in the Chapel Building
- Renovations of rooms in the Chapel Building

**Watch for more details in the upcoming months.**

If you would like more information about ways to give, please contact Sandra Gill, Development Coordinator, at [sgill@passionist.org](mailto:sgill@passionist.org) or by calling (916) 725-4720, ext 302.

“....and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.  
Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
For God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:6-7)

***Thank you for your continued support of Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center!***



## Blessings on CTK Projects



### Basketball Court

A new basketball court was built on the grounds of CTK thanks to the generosity of a donor. The court was blessed on October 6, 2019. With our growing youth population at CTK, we want to provide options for physical activity in order to support and to encourage the physical activities that are built into the schools' retreat programs.

### La Casa Ramp

The long awaited blessing of the ramp project took place on October 12, 2019. Donors and Volunteers for the project were in attendance. All gathered for fellowship afterwards. Perry Mejica and Rafael Zepeda had the honors of cutting the ribbon. Both were instrumental in the building of the ramp. Everyone in attendance participated in the blessing, including Pastor Chris Alford from the Epiclesis: Ancient-Future Faith Community was present with a group of volunteers from the church who also worked on the ramp rails.



### Holy Family Prayer Garden

The Holy Family Prayer Garden was dedicated and blessed on January 3, 2020. The Garden is one of several areas at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center that is a dedicated place for meditation and prayer. You can purchase a personally engraved brick tile(s) that will be placed on the base of one of the three statues in the garden: The Holy Family, Our Lady of Guadalupe, or St. Joseph. The Garden was made possible by a generous donor. Please contact the Development Office for more information.





## Remembering Dear Friends of Christ the King

### Margaret 'Midge' Stahelek (1926-2019)



Midge passed away peacefully on December 14, 2019 at her home in Sacramento, CA. She was born on May 31, 1926 in Greenfield, MA, youngest of seven children. Midge volunteered at Christ the King for over 25 years, running the gift and bookshop. Midge was a long time member of the Community of Passionist Partners (CPP). Midge was well known for her 'blue light specials' she would hold during weekend retreats. Midge worked for Liberty Mutual Insurance for 43 years, where she retired from in 1988. Midge loved to travel. After a trip to Medjugorje, her travels were focused on pilgrimages to apparition sights of Our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary. The Our Lady of Guadalupe Statue in the Holy Family Prayer Garden has been dedicated in her memory.

### Dorothy 'Dee' Tassinari (1933-2019)

Dee Tassinari passed away on December 13, 2019. Dee was an active member of CTK Ladies Guild, including serving as past President of the Guild. She was a member of Holy Family Parish. She was also Deanery President for NorCal. Despite being physically challenged in her later years, Dee remained caring of others, a mentor/coach for the Guild, and strong in her Faith in God. Dee implemented many projects and supported many causes at Christ the King. Before retiring and moving to Citrus Heights from the Bay Area, she was a college librarian. She spent many hours working in the library at CTK in addition to her numerous other tasks. She was a mother of 3, grandmother of 5, and a great grandmother. Dee is and will continue to be missed by all she touched.





## Jubilee Celebration at Christ the King

In celebration of 300 Years of the Passionist Mission, the Jubilee Icon and Relic of St. Paul of the Cross came to CTK for a special Mass celebration on February 13<sup>th</sup>, followed by fellowship. Fr. Joe Moons, CP, Provincial Superior, presided over Mass. Public veneration of the Relic and Icon was held until Sunday, Feb 16. Christopher Jungers, from the Holy Cross Province, traveled to the Passionist retreat centers with these sacred items to insure safe arrival at each community. Celebrations were held at each community.



### A Poem by Suzanne Poling, CTK Retreatant

The trees, magic in their bare limbs,  
Entwined-reaching high

Old trunks of logs in piles  
Deceased from age and wear

Olive trees reach out in green  
Awaiting hands to fill with joy

Ivy climbs the fence  
Gathers at their neighbors doors

Leaves of brown and grasses  
Of verdant fields hold by feet

I hear a lone bird sing quietly nearby  
A woman walks by gathering her thoughts

The men of God send words of Hope to  
Our hearts and minds

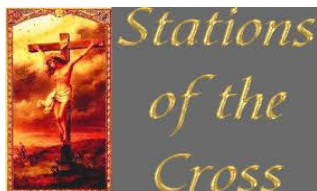
Women join in prayer and Love to find  
Solace in this piece of time

The chapel call us again to bless and  
Bring another peace called God



## **Stations of the Cross**

*With our Passionist Family*



Good Friday  
April 10, 2020

Join us for the observance of the Stations in our outdoor garden at 10am on Good Friday.

**Friday, April 10 at 10:00am**

## **Institute for the Study of the Passion**



Lead by Fr. Tom Bonacci C.P.

Thursday mornings 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Following Community Mass

\$12 per person, per session

### **Spring Series**

#### **The Prayer of Jesus on the Cross**

May 7- Insights from the Gospels of Mark and Mathew

May 21- Insights from the Gospels of Luke

June 4 - Insights from the Gospels of John

### **Summer Series**

#### **Reflections on the Psalms**

August 13- The Book of Psalms- A Study of Praise

August 27- The Psalms of Lament- The Cry for Justice

September 10 - The Psalms of Joy- The Song of Creation's Love for God

## **Easter Triduum Retreat**



**"Come to me and I will give you rest"**

**Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday  
April 9-12, 2020**

Our Holy Week Retreat is inspired by the Gospel of St. Matthew and the Gospel of St. John. As we call to mind the Passion of Jesus, we once more embrace the passions of his heart. The Heart of Jesus is the rhythm of our Holy Week Retreat in which Christ will wash our feet, feed us with the finest bread, give us his life, and live forever in our hearts. Come, let him raise you up.

You are welcome to attend one or all the four days.

### **Holy Thursday, April 9 (5:00pm Registration)**

7:30 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Supper and Washing of the Feet

### **Good Friday, April 10 (8:30am Registration)**

10:00 am - Stations of the Cross

2:45 pm - Liturgy of the Passion and Veneration of the Cross

### **Holy Saturday, April 11 (8:30am Registration)**

7:30 pm - The Great Vigil of Easter

### **Easter Sunday, April 12 (8:30am Registration)**

9:00 am - Easter Sunday Liturgy (brunch following)

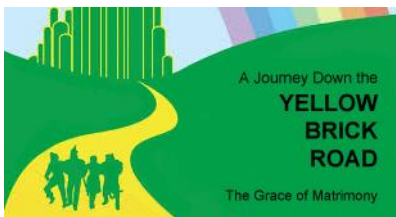
#### **Cost:**

- ♥ All four days including accommodation - \$310 Single/\$260 double sharing.
- ♥ Holy Thursday with Dinner - \$30
- ♥ Good Friday - \$55
- ♥ Holy Saturday - \$55
- ♥ Sunday Liturgy and Brunch - \$25



## Married Couples Retreat

### **A Journey Down the Yellow Brick Road: The Grace of Matrimony**



An engaging, creative and refreshing weekend with Fr. Jack Conley, CP

**July 17-19, 2020**

Cost: \$325 per couple

## Recovery Retreat



Men in Recovery – **May 1-3** and **Sept. 25-27**

Women in Recovery – **May 8-10** and **Sept. 18-20**

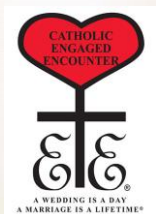
Presented by Tim Meyers SJ (May)

Presented by Fr. Tom Bonacci, CP -Women-Sept  
Men's Fall Presenter TBD

Cost: \$220 per person

## Catholic Engaged Encounter

**Friday Night to Sunday Afternoon**



May 22-24, 2020

Sept 4-6, 2020

Nov. 20-22, 2020

Registration: See the Engaged Encounter website



**Sunday, June 7, 2020, 11:00pm to 5:00pm.**

The Fiesta begins with Mass, followed by a delicious authentic multicultural menu of food items for lunch. We'll have games for the kids, including a Piñata, and raffle for cash prizes.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** If you would like to volunteer at Fiesta, please email Sandra Gill at [sgill@passionist.org](mailto:sgill@passionist.org).

## Ladies Guild

**Third Tuesday of Every Month  
12:00pm-2:30pm (begins with Mass)**

A group of wonderful ladies meet monthly to discuss various topics and ideas for fundraising and volunteer opportunities benefiting CTK.

**Cost: \$20.00 Membership fee**





## The Silent Directed Retreat

June 8-12, 2020



### **Walking in the Way of the Lord**

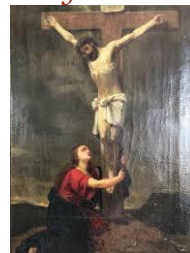
Our five-day Silent Retreat offers an opportunity to review and discern what it means to Walk in the Ways of the Lord. The Silent Retreat is a wonderful opportunity to search and explore the depth of your heart through peaceful prayer, thoughtful reflection, optional reflections, and spiritual direction with one of our spiritual directors in an atmosphere of peace and quiet.

Directed by Tom Bonacci, C.P.

Cost: \$425

## Bereavement Retreat

*Standing with Mary at the Foot of the Cross*



Experience hope, healing and support through reflections, prayer and sharing and let your memories lift your heart.

Facilitated by Fr. Tom Bonacci, CP

**September 8, 2020**

**9:30am – 2:30pm**

\$40 includes Lunch

Concludes with Mass

## **Young and Married**

*Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month from 3 to 5pm.* Every session is an opportunity to grow in knowledge about the sacrament of marriage, to grow in love among each other and, most importantly, to grow in love with God. Babysitting is available



## **Hispanic Ministry**

*Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from 6:30-8:30pm.* Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center is also known as Centro de Retiros Pasionista Cristo Rey, a place of welcome, worship, and where you can encounter God in the silence of your heart. The evenings are facilitated in Spanish by Deacons Gilberto Coss and Antonio Ponce.





Christ the King  
Passionist Retreat Center  
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MAY THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST BE ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS

# Save the Date

## *Autumn Splendor Gala*

*A Fundraising Event*

*Saturday, October 3, 2020*

*Join Us for an Elegant Evening*

*At Christ the King*

*Mass, Dinner, Auction*