



# Christ the King Spring Newsletter

2021



MAY THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST BE ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS

*"The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.  
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8*

Dear Friends,

As I reminisce about my childhood, one memory has stuck with me. It had to do with riding the school bus for the first time. My mother prepared me well; took me to the spot where the bus would drop me off; showed me where she would stand to wait for me; asked me if I felt ok; and I remember thinking, "I can do this." The day came. I hopped onto the bus, I took a seat, and as we prepared to leave the school parking lot, I remember being a little nervous. What if I missed the bus stop? What if my mom wasn't there to receive me? A few unknowns, but overall, nothing that would deter me from hopping off the bus at the right moment. It was time, the second-to-last stop. The bus driver looked at me and told me it was my stop. I looked back at her and said she wasn't right. I said "no". I refused to get off the bus, because to me, I didn't see the spot where my mom was standing, I didn't see the sidewalk that looked familiar. And so, I stayed on the bus until it returned to the school. At which point, my mother met us and asked what happened. The bus driver shared about my hesitation. As I rode home with my mom, she pointed to me where she had been standing, she showed me the sidewalk, and it was at that moment I realized I had been looking out of the "wrong" side of the bus.

As I share this memory, I reflect on how God prepares us in our lives and shows us His Love.

There are those times we are sure; we feel confident and we KNOW God. We follow His path He's laid out for us and it feels good. Then there are the times when we are challenged or questioned, and our faith wavers and we feel like we do not KNOW God. Sometimes, we end up back at our original location, and we learn from the experience. Other times, we take the leap of faith and go where we have never been before. Inevitably, we continue.

One year ago, our Retreat Center was shaken. Our path was deterred and our vision re-imagined. We didn't have a clear idea of how the pandemic would affect us. In fact, we didn't even think it would last a year. However, we've very cautiously stayed the course, continued with our Passionist program offerings, kept our grounds open, and reached out in the ways of technology, email, and mailings. We've made it through to another Springtime. This time, the news about coming back "in person" is something we all look forward to hearing. As we move into this year, we pray for God's continued guidance and blessings. May you and your loved ones be showered with God's love during this Springtime and beyond.

Many blessings and gratitude,

*Natalie Svistoonoff*

Natalie Svistoonoff



## Christ the King Update and Highlights

### Addressing Covid-19 at Christ the King: *The Digital Shift*

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, CTK Staff and Passionist Community worked quickly to pivot how we moved forward in 2020...and ultimately into 2021. Technology became our best friend; keeping us connected to you with bi-weekly and digital reflections, providing updates on CTK offerings, we shifted all Passionist programs to an online format, including weekly Thursday Mass. Our annual events were re-imagined and planned with the times in mind.



**Annual Fall Gala 2020 Fall Harvest: *Gather God's Blessings*** was held on Friday, Oct 30. The Fall Gala is a major fundraiser for the Center. Unlike 2019's formal event, 2020's version included a delicious meal to-go for curbside pick-up, prepared by CTK's chef, Deanna Jensen. Additionally, friends of CTK were invited to an outdoors blessing at the newly renovated fountain on a beautiful fall afternoon led by our Director of Ministry, Fr. Jim Strommer, CP. Attendees were able to participate in a silent auction with a variety of gift baskets available for bidding. Over 65 meals were ordered, all gift baskets were bid on and the event was a great success!



**Community Efforts: *Christmas Family Food Boxes*** Christ the King collaborated with Holy Family St. Vincent De Paul Society and the CTK Ladies Guild in organizing and providing Christmas food boxes for a few local families in December. Food was donated by the Ladies Guild, CTK staff, and members of the community. The Retreat Center was the pickup location and volunteers helped load cars with the food items.





## Christ the King Update and Highlights Cont...

**Our St. Valentine's Day Dinners To-Go** on February 14th was a success! Over 100 meals were sold. CTK Staff and Passionists greeted guests and delivered meals to their cars. Items in the meals included a special valentine card from the CTK Passionist Family and a gift from the CTK Women's Guild. Thank you to everyone who participated! Please keep an eye out for future opportunities for Meals To-Go.



## Thank You for Your Service on the CTK Board...

**Mary Myrick** served on the Board of Directors for 9 years. She served as Secretary for a number of years and also on numerous CTK Committees including Policy Governance Committee, Strategic Planning, and COVID-19 Response. While serving on the board her faith understanding the Passionist Charism has deepened. Her mission as a member of the Passionist family is to reflect a loving and healing presence to all she encounters. "I received more than I gave!"



Her career included being a lobbyist, teacher, entrepreneur, business owner and counselor. Mary currently serves as Chairman of the Board of the Franciscan Living Center and is a member of the St. Francis Parish.

## Development News

### Supporting Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center

Thank you for your continued support of Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center during a very challenging time posed by Covid-19! With your help we have been able to continue our mission. The 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 ongoing programs, provide retreat scholarships, and care for the beautiful buildings, gardens and grounds at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center.

### Additional Updates:

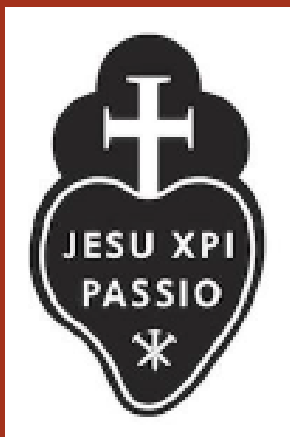
**St Paul of the Cross Memorial Garden:** The last of the personalized bricks were placed in the garden this past Fall. Thank you to everyone who supported this effort!

### Capital Campaign Update:

Phase 1: The HVAC project has been completed in both the Chapel and Holy Cross Building.

Phase 2: Projects include Fire Safety Compliance, Holy Cross Building/Quinn Room Upgrade, and ADA Compliance.

To learn more about ways to give to Christ the King, including monthly gifts, planned giving, go to our website at [www.christthekingretreatcenter.org](http://www.christthekingretreatcenter.org) or contact Sandra Gill in the Development Office at 916-725-4720, ext. 302 or [sgill@passionist.org](mailto:sgill@passionist.org).



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## ONLINE Institute for the Study of the Passion

### Thursdays from 10:00am - Noon

### Led by Fr. Tom Bonacci, CP

#### REFLECTIONS INSPIRED BY THE GOSPEL OF ST. MARK

In observance of the Three Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of the Passionist Community, we offer these humble reflections throughout the year. Our inspiration comes from the Gospel of St. Mark as we glean wisdom from the Hebrew Scripture, the New Testament, the Wisdom of St. Paul of the Cross, and contemporary Church Documentation.

#### REGISTER ONLINE

#### The Spring Series 2021

May 13 -Family, Community, and Discipleship

May 20 - Abundance Born Out of Failure

May 27 - She Danced - A Story of Healing and Destruction

#### The Fall Series 2021

August 5 - Rejection Revisited - The Great Surprise

August 12 - Bread for the World - Fish for the Masses

August 19 - Two Miracles Unique to Mark

#### SAVE THE DATES:

Family Fiesta - Sunday, June 6, 2021

Annual Fall Gala-Saturday, October 2, 2021.

2021 Passionist Programs will be posted our Website! Please check our website at <https://christthekingretreatcenter.org> for updates on upcoming programs and events.

Or call us at 916-725-4720. Ext. 305.