

CTK Staff Highlights

Michele Ochesky

Michele works in Accounting/HR. She has worked at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center (CTK) for 28 years.



What I find most unique about CTK is it is a beautifully preserved Shangri-La in the middle of the city. The Center has a variety of wildlife from turkeys to deer. The outdoor Stations of the Cross are available for guests and visitors to walk. The paths are filled with camellia bushes, tall oak and pine trees, bridges, streams, and wildlife.

During my time at the center, I've enjoyed getting to know the wonderful, vowed priests and brethren that I have had the pleasure of working with for so many years. I also enjoy the beautiful park-like grounds and the special people I've met at the Center.

The Center is near and dear to my heart. When I have experienced personal crises and hardships in my life, the center has offered me a place to pray and given me support.

I have also personally witnessed guests and retreatants who have been transformed by their experiences at the Center. Healing powers are present here and they are shared freely.

Talib Huff

Talib serves as a member of the CTK Preaching Team. He has been attending programs at CTK since 2008 and has been helping form and present programs since 2009.



What I find most unique about CTK is the Passionist Charism or way of seeing and being in the world. The idea of Saint Paul of the Cross, our founder, that when we see suffering, we should be reminded that the love of Christ rings especially true in today's troubled world.

I've had some of my most profound religious experiences while attending programs and services at CTK. It is a place where I truly feel Christ's presence manifested in the actions of the staff.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Passionists in bringing Christ's message of acceptance and love for all the world, for many years to come.

Gwen Devereux

Gwen began working with the CTK Preaching team in early 2019.



What a gift it is to have such a wonderful retreat center in the Diocese of Sacramento. Not every diocese is blessed to have a retreat center. We have the wonderful Passionist Order who have served us here for so many years. Although it is situated in the middle of the busy Sacramento Metropolitan area, every time I drive through the gates on to the property I feel as if time stops and I am entering a realm of peace, tranquility and spirituality.

Christ the King is filled with areas to pause and reflect and sit in God's presence. I love to walk through the outdoor Stations of the Cross, and sit in the various prayer gardens, but I find myself most drawn to the chapel, to sit in God's presence and gaze upon the crucifix.

The Center is important to me as this is where my husband went through diaconate formation and so I cherish that time of growing together spiritually, as we answered the call to serve the church.

I am so inspired by the men and women who come on retreat – and some of them have joined us consistently for over 20 years! What an incredible sign of hope in a world that sometimes seems to have forgotten God.

Alexandria (Lexi) Aparicio

Lexie is one of our newest additions to the center. She serves as the administrative assistant in the front office. She has been with the center for approximately 1 ½ years.



Even though I am only at the center Tuesday and Thursdays I have found much joy working at the center. I not only work at the front office, but have also experienced other areas at the center such as food service and housekeeping. I am a student at Sierra College and will be transferring to Sacramento State University in Spring 2023. My major is Business Administration, I hope to one day be able to bring my studies and interests to share with everyone who comes to the center.

What I find most unique about the Center is that it is hidden and many people don't know about it. I enjoy working here, connecting with and helping others, which also helps me, as I am a shy person. My coworkers are very nice and fun to work with. I also enjoy the scenery of the Center, with all the trees, plants and land.

I feel it is important that the Center is here – it is a place where people can come be closer to God.