



# Christ the King

## Fall Newsletter

2023



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

*"...to proclaim good news to the poor, to free captives, and to set the oppressed free..." (Luke 4:18-19)*

Dear Friends,

One of the beautiful things I've learned from being with the Passionists is how we minister to Christ Crucified. You may be asking yourself, "What does this mean?"

We are with those who are broken, hurt, fearful, anxious, rejected, oppressed, suffering, and challenged. But in the same way we minister to all these individuals, we rejoice with those who are excited, joyful, fulfilled and faith driven. These individuals are polar opposites at times and in many ways show me how we sit with the cross, in our lives. We want everyone to feel welcome and at home.

The suffering of Jesus on the cross and the ultimate and unending love of God is continuous throughout all seasons of life. These seasons can include births, deaths, disappointments, milestones, losses, weddings, divorces, and break ups. We experience the 40 days of fasting during Lent to strengthen our faith, but our lives continue the rest of the year. Daily life doesn't always stop because we have a hardship. Sometimes it's very unclear and other times it's clear as day. God doesn't pick and choose, God accepts us in our entirety.

Our theme this season centers on the Kingdom of God's Love, and Luke's Gospel in particular is saturated with Jesus' sensitivity to the marginalized, those who lack social prestige and influence, neglected by the wealthy and powerful. As Pope Francis wrote in his first encyclical, "If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ,

without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life." (*Evangelii Gaudium* 49)

Our preaching team has asked the difficult questions, "where are the youth? What about those who feel rejected and challenged? How about those whose families have turned their backs on them? Where are those who've fallen away from their faith? There are so many people with varying backgrounds, don't they also want a relationship with God? Where are Christ Crucified and how do we welcome them back to a deeper sense of faith and God's love?" These questions aren't easy to answer.

At times, fear can overcome our desire to open our doors and hearts. Preconceived stereotypes and judgments can close doors but it's about time we put the fear aside and start a conversation. Shouldn't we meet others without fear, be open to a concept we're not familiar with and ultimately open ourselves to continued growth? Something I have realized by being at the center is everyone has a story. And at times, it can be messy, it can be murky and even better, it can be magnificent.

We continue to open our doors and open our arms to all people of God; therefore, we ask you to please consider inviting a friend or family member to come on retreat with you this upcoming retreat season. Let's walk together, just as God walks with us. The Kingdom of God is truly at hand. Without a doubt God's love is very present in our time. All are welcome to experience a relationship with God.

Warmly,

*Natalie Swistunoff*



## What's New at CTK...

Construction started with the dining room door project over the summer. The project is Phase 3 of our Diamond Jubilee Capital Campaign. The addition of the door in our dining room is needed to meet Fire Marshall Regulations. Adding the door will allow us to use the dining room at its full capacity of over 100 guests. Currently, we can only accommodate 49 guests. Groups larger than 49 are accommodated by offering additional conference room space, outdoor seating or split meal times. We are looking forward to our groups being able to have their meals all together in community. This project is made possible by many kind and generous benefactors who contributed to the Fund-a-Need during our annual Fall Gala 2022. The project is scheduled to be completed in early Fall.



Christ the King received a donation of twenty six trees—a variety of oak and fruit trees—from Norman's Nursery in San Gabriel, CA, thanks to CTK Passionist community member Br. Carl Hund. Br. Carl has been busy planting the new trees around the property. We lost several trees during winter storms of 2022 and are grateful for the gift of the new trees!



In May, the retreat center and guests were welcomed by a surprise visit from Fr. Giltus Mathias, CP. Fr. Giltus presided over Thursday Mass while in town, followed by fellowship and food.



## New Provincial and Consultors



Every four years the Passionist Family of Holy Cross Province gathers for its Provincial Chapter. It is a time for reviewing the past, for choosing future options, and for electing the Provincial and his Consultors for the next four years. Please join us in congratulating our new Provincial, Fr. David Colhour, CP (center in photo) and his Consultors, Fr. Jim Strommer, CP, Fr. Febin Barose, CP, Fr. Bruno D'Souza, CP and Fr. John Schork, CP. A very warm thank you to Fr. Joe Moons, CP for his leadership serving as our previous Provincial Superior.

## CTK Hispanic Ministry

Saludos and Greetings! Christ the King's Hispanic Ministry is growing and the group would like to invite you to participate in the ministry! The group is led by Fr. Phillip Donlan, CP. With the support of Deacon Gilbert Coss and Pete Lopez, weekly meetings are conducted via Zoom to review the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Their insights prove to be invaluable. Pope St. John Paul II says that through its reading, "We can perceive the wonderful unity of the mystery of God". Additionally, the group meets onsite every third Monday of each month from 7:00pm-9:00pm. All are welcome for community and fellowship. Come and experience the calm and beauty of the grounds at Christ the King. Please join us to discuss the beautiful mysteries of our faith and other important topics. For more information, please contact Fr. Phillip Donlan at [pdonlan@passionist.org](mailto:pdonlan@passionist.org). Bendiciones!



## Development News

### Supporting Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center

**Thank you for your continued support of Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center!** 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 on-going programs, provide retreat scholarships, and care for the beautiful buildings, gardens and grounds at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center.

### Ways to Give to CTK

**Monthly Giving:** 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, please consider increasing your gift.

**Fr. Ray McDonough Scholarship Fund:** Scholarships provide financial assistance for retreatants in need to be able to attend a Passionist retreat.

**The Gift of Time -Volunteer at CTK:** There are several volunteer opportunities at Christ the King. Opportunities include Weekend Retreat Host/Hostess; General Event Support, Parish Coordinator, and Grounds/Maintenance. Please contact the Development Office if you are interested in volunteering.



#### Meet CTK Volunteer Grounds Team

Gisele Ganter, Pat Day and Jim Bennett help our part time grounds man Gene maintain the beautiful grounds at CTK. The team is dedicated and works hard to tend to the many needs of the ground including watering, weeding, trimming, maintaining our fountains and more! They receive joy and satisfaction maintaining the beautiful grounds for our guests who are seeking rest.

#### Holy Family Prayer Garden- **Only 14 Spaces Left!**

The Holy Family Prayer Garden is one of several areas at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center dedicated as a place for meditation and prayer. Engraved brick tiles are available for purchase that will be carefully placed on the base of one of two statues in the garden: Lady of Guadalupe, and/or St. Joseph. For more information go to:

<https://christthekingretreatcenter.org/giving/buy-a-brick/>



#### Looking Ahead...

**Join us for Christ the King's Annual Fall Gala (Fundraising Event):**

The Roaring Twenties, Saturday, October 7, 2023. \$135 pp. See back page for more details.

**Giving Tuesday:** A Global Day of Giving on November 28, 2023. Watch for more details!

Interested in receiving our weekly Passionist Charism Reflection and Retreat Center Updates?  
Email [sgill@passionist.org](mailto:sgill@passionist.org).

For additional information about ways to give, 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).



## Summer Fiesta 2023

The Retreat Center held its annual Summer Fiesta on Sunday, June 4. The event began with outdoor Mass held in the Marian Grotto with Fr. Phillip Donlan, CP presiding. A delicious BBQ lunch followed. Guests enjoyed live music by local band, Red Rooster Band, and a variety of games for all ages. Over 150 guests attended. Thank you to all who bought raffle tickets or made a donation in support of this annual fundraising event. A special thank you to those who volunteered their time!

### Congratulations to our raffle winners:

**Grand Prize -\$1000:** Tom Grant  
**2nd Prize-\$500:** Mark & Anita Raus  
**3rd Prize -Retreat Weekend:**  
 Bette & Ben Arellano

### Save the Date for 2024:

**Sunday, June 2.**  
 We hope to see you there!





# Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center

## RETREAT SEASON 2023-2024



This season's theme is a response to the voices we have heard — the concerns and hopes— of Christ the King retreatants. So many people have expressed their fear for the next generation. Coupled with gratitude for so many things, many are also frustrated with the outrage in public discourse, the divisions in Church and culture, global concerns like wars and climate change, and the break-up of the family. We continue to pray about immigration and racism and the dignity of all life, and we wonder if there is something more we might be doing.

But we also attempt to move beyond the “front burner” issues and ponder what the Spirit might be telling us amidst all the hurt and hatred, the harmony and healing. Thus, the conferences will center upon... not our wish-lists for next week, but God's dream for the next millennium, always conscious of the Kingdom, God's love in our time. Here we become the hope we wish for the world.

### Women's Retreats

W1 Nov	3-5, 2023
W2 January	19-21, 2024
W3 January	26-28, 2024
W4 February	2-4, 2024
W5 February	23-25, 2024
W6 March	8-10, 2024
W7 March	22-24, 2024
W8 April	12-14, 2024
W9 April	26-28, 2024

### Men's Retreats

M1 Dec	1-3, 2023
M2 February	9-11, 2024
M3 February	16-18, 2024
M4 March	1-3, 2024
M5 April	5-7, 2024

### Retreat Team

**Fr. Tom Bonacci, C.P.**  
**Fr. Phillip Donlan, C.P.**  
**Gwen Devereux**  
**Talib Huff**

**Fr. Jack Conley, C.P.**  
**Director of Ministry**

**ALL WEEKENDS ARE OPEN TO MEMBERS OF ANY PARISH GROUP AND INDIVIDUALS**

**IN-PERSON REGISTRATION: \$250 SINGLE/\$230 DOUBLE**

(We do not allocate shared rooms, please organize your own partner)

**PAY ONLINE: CONTACT RETREAT CENTER IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE**

**Retreat Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **HOME PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY / STATE / ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PARISH** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PAYMENT ENCLOSED:** ☐ Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
**CC#** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sec#:** \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended a retreat at Christ the King in the past? ☐ YES ☐ NO **Number of times:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail To:** Christ the King Retreat Center- 6520 Van Maren Ln, Citrus Heights, CA 95621.

Attention 'Retreat' or Register Online: **ChristTheKingRetreatCenter.org**.

Call 916-725-4720 ext.307 or 301.

**\*Please see back**



## Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center

6520 Van Maren Lane, Citrus Heights, CA 95621



### \*2023-2024 Schedule

#### FRIDAY

4:30pm Registration Begins  
 5:30 pm Social & Welcome Announcements  
 6:30 pm Supper in Dining Room  
 7:30 pm Opening Prayer Service and First Conference (Chapel)

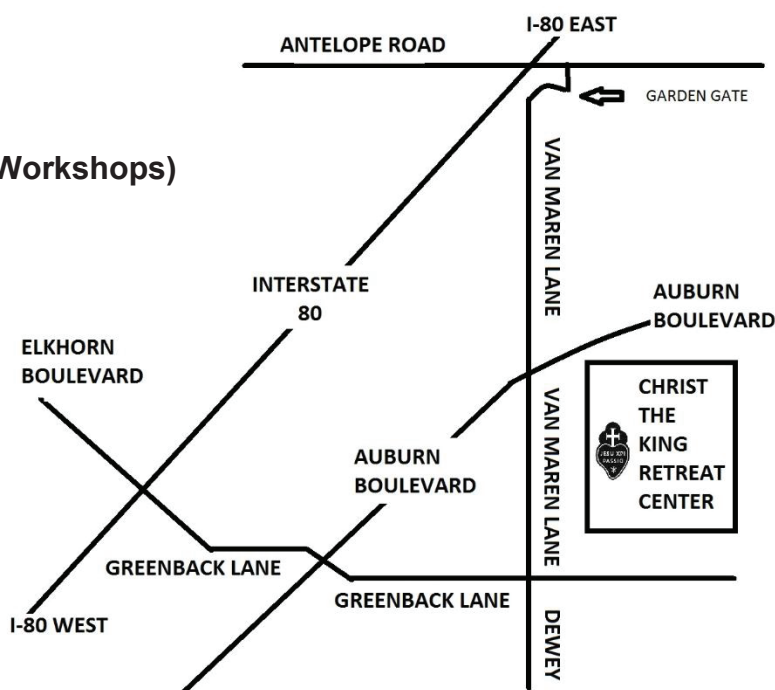
#### MAP

#### SATURDAY

8:00 am Morning Prayer (Chapel)  
 8:30 am Breakfast  
 9:30 am Second Conference  
 11:30 am Liturgy (Chapel)  
 12:30pm Lunch  
 1:30 pm (Quiet, Rest, Study, Optional Workshops)  
 3:00 pm Third Conference (Chapel)  
 3:45 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 5:15 pm Fourth Conference  
 6:00 pm Supper  
 7:00 pm Fifth Conference  
 8:00 pm Social

#### SUNDAY

8:00 am Morning Prayer  
 8:30 am Breakfast  
 9:30 am Retreat Center Updates/  
         Sixth Conference  
 11:45 am Concluding Liturgy  
         Peaceful Farewell



### Room Request

☐ Bathroom with wheelchair access    ☐ No Stairs    ☐ Service Dog

Please provide details of other mobility issues or special requirements \_\_\_\_\_

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Dietary Requirements:    ☐ Vegetarian    ☐ Gluten free

Other dietary requirements may need for you to bring your own food. Refrigeration is available.

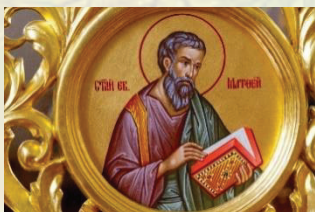
For more info visit our website [www.christthekingretreatcenter.org](http://www.christthekingretreatcenter.org) or

call 916-725-4720 Ext. 307 or Ext. 301



## CTK Retreats and Programs

### Institute for the Study of the Passion Fall Session 2023



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The Passion of Jesus in our World Today  
Insights from St. Matthew's Gospel

**Led by Fr. Tom Bonacci, CP**

Thursday mornings 10:00am-11:30am

September 21, October 5, 19, 2023

Fee: \$45 for all sessions/\$15 per session at the door

**Location:** CTK Retreat Center

**In Person and Online**

### A Day of Bereavement



How Do We Respond to Grief and  
Bereavement Through the Lens of Jesus

November 6, 2023

9:00am-3:00 pm

**Facilitated by:**

**Fr. Phillip Donlan, CP**

Fee: \$50 - Includes Lunch



### Catholic Engaged Encounter Dates:

**Nov. 17-19, 2023, Jan. 12-14, 2024,  
Mar. 15-17, 2024**

For information or to register,  
please go to the Engaged  
Encounter website at:  
<https://www.sacee.org>



**Date: October 13-15, 2023**

For information, or to register for the  
program please call  
John and Peggy Di Nocco,  
Sacramento Retrouvaille 530-536-0449  
or visit: [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org)



### Advent Day of Prayer

December 5, 2023 9:30am-3:00pm

**Facilitated by: Retreat Team**

Fee: \$50 - Includes Lunch



### Simbang Gabi

December 15-23, 2023

Starts 6:00 pm each evening

Come celebrate this wonderful  
Filipino Tradition fellowship



### New Year's Retreat

December 31, 2023 -Jan 1, 2024

Details to Come...

For information on retreats, call 916-725-4720 ext. 301 or go to [www.christthekingretreatcenter.org](http://www.christthekingretreatcenter.org)

### We're Hiring!

Maintenance, Grounds, Housekeeping and Dining Room

Inquire by email at [christtheking@passionist.org](mailto:christtheking@passionist.org) or by phone at 916-725-4720, ext. 301

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 2  
Citrus Heights,  
CA 95621

Christ the King  
Passionist Retreat Center  
6520 Van Maren Lane  
Citrus Heights, CA, 95621

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name  
address2  
address1  
city, state zip

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MAY THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST BE ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS

## Save the Date!

Please join us at our 6th annual Fall Gala:  
*The Roaring Twenties*

- Mass, Dinner and Dancing
- Silent and Live Auctions
- Overnight Accommodations Available

*Pearls, Flapper Dresses and Bow Ties  
Encouraged!*

Tickets \$135pp  
Overnight \$100 – Includes Breakfast

Tickets can be purchased online, by mail, or  
in person.

For more information contact Sandra Gill at  
[sgill@passionist.org](mailto:sgill@passionist.org) or  
916-725-4720, ext 302.

