

Mustard Seed

NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST THE KING PARISH

MARCH 2015

As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them in loving justice with others and return them with increase to the Lord. — Stewardship: A Disciple's Response



2015 CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

Supporting the work of the Church

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Catholic Charity Appeal. Over these years, the Catholic community of Rhode Island, through its parishes, schools and ministries, has enjoyed a long history of service and support for the many needs of the people of Rhode Island. Our parish kicked off the Catholic Charity Appeal the weekend of February 28/March 1. Co-chairs Mary Freeman and Sarah Tracy provided a brief overview of this year's campaign at each of the weekend masses. A letter from the co-chairs and Fr. Jared with gift materials also was mailed to all parishioners.

The ministries supported by the fund range from social service ministries providing direct support to the poor, the hungry and homeless, to immigration and refugee services, and to emergency rent and medical aid. Additional services include prison ministry, justice and peace education, which works to end violence in the inner city, and community advocacy for needs in the community. Educational support includes substantial financial and scholarship aid to students with financial need to attend Rhode Island Catholic schools.

This year's parish goal of \$234,890 remains the same as last year's. Mary, Sarah and Fr. Jared are confident that our parish will reach this amount because, through the generosity of our parishioners, we raised \$238,300 in 2014.

As you reflect on your contribution to the Catholic Charity Appeal, please consider increasing your gift by taking advantage of the pledge plan. Parishioners are also reminded to take advantage of their employer's Matching Gift Program, if one is offered.

Here at Christ the King, the spirituality of stewardship is the fabric of our parish community. The Catholic Charity Appeal is another aspect of how Christ the King parish lives out the call to stewardship. Your gifts of charity reflect Christ's love to the many people whose lives are touched by the ministries and services of our diocese.

— Sarah Tracy

Your Catholic Charity Appeal Dollars at Work

AIDS Ministry

"I never thought the Church would do this for me!" A young man struggling with AIDS was so overcome by Serenity House that he could not contain his emotions. The new home for AIDS victims is supported by Assumption Parish, other parishes in our diocese, Vision of Hope and AIDS Ministry – a Catholic Charity Fund Agency. This new home, supported in so many ways by so many people, will give our sisters and brothers living with this disease a place of comfort, love, dignity and the presence of God's love at a time when they need Him the most.

Keep the Heat On CCFA

Frank is a 78-year-old widower who lives in a small home in Providence. He lives on a fixed income and relies on his social security payment to survive. Until this year, he could afford his bills, but with the price of heating fuel rising, Frank could no longer afford to pay his energy bill. Frank called the Interfaith Community Direct Emergency Fund in February and asked for help. He never had to rely on anyone for assistance before. Thanks to the Catholic Charity Fund Appeal, money from "Keep the Heat On" was able to help Frank with 100 gallons of fuel, which kept him and his home warm through the cold winter evenings.

Youth Ministers Team Teach Religious Education Classes

Erin Spicola

More than 90 percent of teens say they want to volunteer, but a much smaller percentage actually do according to the online site dosomething.org. It is clear that many would like to make it happen but they don't know how. Well 16-year-old Erin Spicola is someone who knows how to make it happen and does.



Rachel Erkan and Erin Spicola

Erin teaches CCD here at Christ the King. Leading the class with the help of her friend, Rachel Erkan, she is responsible for some of the youngest members of our parish. She has the job of preparing this group of 10 children for First Communion. Capturing the attention of such a young audience each week with a lesson and readying them for this very important sacrament is no easy task. Many of us older parishioners who have done so can attest to that.

Describing her routine with the students, Erin sounds like an old pro. She has found it's best to start with a worksheet for them to concentrate on, then deliver her lesson. Other activities might follow. Turns out she has learned from the best. Her mother has been teaching CCD for several years, a natural fit with her day job as librarian at Johnson & Wales University.

Erin, a junior at Chariho High School, has been a member of Christ the King her whole life. For those of you who don't know Erin, let's just say she is a very busy young lady. As editor in chief of the school newspaper she has her work cut out for her. They crank out four issues over the

school year that she must oversee and edit.

She sounds like quite an impressive student who has begun the college search. At present she has her sights set on George Washington University. She plans to major in Biological Anthropology. Some of us might need to Google that just to learn just what exactly that is!

Ballet is also something Erin dedicates her time to. She takes lessons year round. It is a serious commitment that requires discipline. Erin says her instructor this year has made it very challenging, and she very much enjoys the challenge.

Typically if you need to find Erin during the week she could be found in a number of places, but on Sunday mornings at 10:30 she is in front of her people (little people might be more accurate). We can be sure those students are glad Erin is one teen who's answered the call to stewardship and is making it happen!

— Diane Mihailides

Rachel Erkan

Christ the King has found another outstanding, multi-faceted young lady to help teach second grade CCD. Joining her friend, Erin Spicola, in this endeavor, Rachel Erkan thought this would be "a great experience," one that would be "different from all the other stewardship activities I have done like baking for receptions and sewing blankets for children in the hospital." A very involved Chariho freshman, she was a member of the high school soccer team and will be trying out for its lacrosse team this spring. A member of 4-H since she was 9, Rachel is the treasurer of her club and a leader in the making. She has learned how to show dogs with her black Labra-

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Erin Spicola on her First Communion Day

Team Teachers...

(Continued from page 2)

dor, Misty. Rachel discovered that although “Misty is a great dog,” and she loves her very much, “The showmanship ring is not for her. When first showing her, she rolled over and was looking for a belly rub while being judged!”

A member of Serendipity, a girls choral group at Chariho, Rachel also keeps busy with her academic schedule, doubling up with Earth Science and Biology, her favorite class because she has “had many experiences with nature, fishing, hiking and skiing ... [I] basically enjoy wildlife and outdoor experiences.”

Rachel is learning more about teaching as she is finding how her students’ interests help them learn. On the day of the Super Bowl, she and Erin had the students play a religious trivia game during class time. “We split up the class by the Seahawks and Patriots fans. Though the Seahawks youngsters won the trivia game, the Patriots had their victory later in the day.”



Rachel Erkan poses with her family and Fr. John Soares on her First Communion Day

Her First Communion class experiences were pretty much the same as her students. Rachel remembers that when she was preparing for this sacrament, her class went to the church to learn all about parts of the church as well as hearing from Father Creedon about his chalice and how he got it. Her class did the same this year, but hearing about Father Jared’s chalice instead. She is enjoying her time as an assistant second grade teacher.

— *MaryLou Morissette*



Zach Moniz

Zach Moniz

Zach Moniz has a new appreciation for what it takes to be a teacher. He’s been in the Religious Formation ministry at CTK for three years, and now has his own second-grade class that he teaches with a friend. He started out as an assistant teacher with his mother, teaching sixth- and seventh-grade

CCD. “Teaching CCD has made me appreciate the effort all of my teachers put into our education, both from CCD and school. Once you stand on the other side of a classroom, it becomes a lot easier to identify with a teacher’s struggles,” Zach says. Zach was motivated to teach after seeing the impact a CCD teacher can have on their students’ faith, and he wanted to be able to help others develop their faith and beliefs.

Zach has been a life-long member of CTK; he was baptized as an infant at CTK. He is a junior at The Prout School, and is currently the President of the SADD chapter there, as well as a board member of the Katie DeCubellis Memorial Foundation and the Youth Advisory Board for MADD Rhode Island. He enjoys playing baseball, football and soccer, and hopes to attend Holy Cross College, followed by law school. Zach lives in North Kingstown with his parents, Kelly and George, his brothers, Josh and Jake, and sister Mackenzie.

— *Elise Hedglen*

Patrick Richards

Patrick Richards is a 17-year-old who, despite a busy personal schedule, makes time to contribute to his parish community. A junior at The Prout School, Patrick is involved with Students Against Destructive Decisions Club and Italian Club as well as an athlete on the soccer and tennis teams.

Patrick knew he also wanted to be involved in his parish, so he decided he would start out as a hall monitor for the

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Team Teachers...

(Continued from page 3)

Religious Education program. During his two years as a hall monitor, Patrick observed that the students really seemed to be having fun in class. At that point, he had made his confirmation, and wanted to contribute more. His friend, Zach Moniz, had been teaching with his mother and was ready to take on a class of his own. It was an opportune time for Patrick to begin as an assistant teacher.

Patrick became an assistant teacher in the Religious Education program this past fall. He teaches second grade, which is the year in which students make their First Communion. It is now also the year when they make First Reconciliation. So second grade is a very important year in the religious education of our young parishioners. Knowing these two boys and their families personally, I can say that the students couldn't ask for better teachers of our faith.

Patrick says that teaching with a friend makes it fun and not a chore at all. He said that the staff makes it relatively easy with a book that's easy to use, and suggested activities.



Patrick Richards

With a busy schedule, he says that teaching is very manageable. When I asked him what he likes best about teaching, Patrick said that he really likes when the kids come up to him at the end of class and tell him they had a good time.

Patrick follows behind his three older sisters who all taught CCD. Patrick's mother and father are also active parishioners.

As a junior in high school, Patrick is busy with academics, including preparing for his SATs, and many extracurricular activities. He is a good student and is considering a major in computer science. The students are lucky to have Patrick to

look up to and to teach them about our faith.

— Karen Pinch



Sending a message of comfort

Students in Religious Formation class 4B class display one of the blankets they made for their teacher, parishioner Mimi Keefe, who is ill.

Save the Date

Sunday, March 22 – 10:30 a.m.

OPEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, March 26 – 9 a.m.

PALM CROSS MAKING

Sunday, April 19 – 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, May 2 – 7 p.m.

MEXICAN NIGHT

Thursday, May 7 – 7 p.m.

CONFIRMATION

Giving Witness to Faith as a Family

Stewardship is a family affair for the Roys. Craig attributes the family's involvement in the stewardship program at Christ the King to daughter Carolina's joining the first class of altar servers. That was the impetus for Craig and his wife, Jen, to find ways to share their talents as well. Jen became a member of the Religious Formation Committee. She has been involved in many of the activities and trips planned for the young people of the parish. One of their neighbors, Mike Mitchell, is the web administrator for CTK and Craig has helped him out by videotaping the CTK Christmas Concert and the Children's Stations of the Cross. Craig also has been involved in setting up the Fantasy Football League for the parish. Younger daughter Georgia is waiting to be old enough to join her sister as an altar server.

When Craig was a student at URI in the '90s he would attend Mass at Christ the King. When he and Jen married in 2001 and moved to North Kingstown there was no question as to which parish they would join – they became members at Christ the King. As time went on, their family grew to include daughters Carolina, 12, and Georgia, 9.

Jen attended Rhode Island College and received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from RIC. She teaches third grade at Hope Elementary School in Scituate. The other third-grade teacher at Hope became Jen's good friend. That friend served as matchmaker and introduced

Jen to her brother, Craig Roy. And as the saying goes, "The rest is history."

Craig works for the Rhode Department of Environmental Management in the Water Resources division.



Jen and Craig Roy with daughters Georgia and Carolina

Carolina serves as an altar server at either the 9:15 a.m. or 11:35 a.m. Mass. She also was the narrator for the Children's Stations of the Cross. She feels so much more connected to the Mass as a result of what she has learned as a server. She is a sixth-grader at Davisville Middle School in North Kingstown. There is no idle time for Carolina. She plays the piano and is working on learning the cello and the violin. Last year she earned her Junior Black Belt in karate.

Georgia is a third-grader at Stony Lane School. She takes piano lessons and loves to dance. She hopes to be an altar server next year when she will meet the age requirement.

Craig and Jen feel that the children are the future of the church and as such it is important to involve them in the life of the church at an early age. They admire the programs that Fr. Jared has promoted to involve children in parish activities.

— Lee DeLucia



Did You Know ...

It makes "cents" to Keep the Heat on! Our Religious Formation classes emptied their piggybanks and collected more than \$1,200 in coins to help the Bishop's Keep the Heat On campaign to help families stay warm this cold winter. We were able to send \$1,866 including donations from parishioners! Thank you to all who contributed.

Marrow Donor: 'It's Amazing'

This story originally appeared in the September 2014 issue of The Community Lifeline published by the Rhode Island Blood Center.

Michael LaLonde looks comfortable in the chair in the special room at the Rhode Island Blood Center, a room where they extract marrow in a process not so dissimilar to a blood donation. Over the next few hours, enough marrow will be extracted that will not only give someone hope, but likely life itself.

"It's amazing," LaLonde says, as life-saving marrow is extracted, marrow that is earmarked for a 28-year-old afflicted with leukemia ... marrow that is this young man's only hope for survival.

"It's a great feeling to do this," says LaLonde, 44, and a health and physical education teacher and coach at Warwick Veterans High School.

A longtime and frequent blood donor, LaLonde first registered for the marrow program 14 years ago at the urging of a student athlete at the high school. It was this past May that he first learned he may be a match and in July that he got the call that he was in fact a perfect match for someone. He won't learn the identity of that individual for a year.

"It's great; it's a privilege," LaLonde says of his marrow donation.

A father of three, a marathon runner, he has been an avid blood donor for more than 25 years, donating four to five times a year. He has been serving as the blood drive coordinator at Warwick Veterans High School for the past 15 years.

He recalls donating blood for the first time at the urging of Paul Hynes, a teacher at Warwick Veterans High School and the school's blood drive coordinator at the time. When LaLonde arrived at the school as a teacher a few years later, Hynes encouraged him to follow him as blood drive coordinator when Hynes moved from Vets to Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick, where Hynes now teaches and continues as that school's blood drive coordinator.

LaLonde says advocating for donating blood is a perfect fit for his position as a health care educator, and something that strikes very close to home. His brother-in-law receives chemotherapy treatments frequently, requiring a blood donation every three weeks, LaLonde says.

And it's his students who often tell the most compelling stories.



Michael LaLonde

"Everyone probably knows somebody who has received blood," he says. "I ask in class who knows someone who has received blood, and they tell stories, very convincing stories. There are the few stories of relatives who have been on the list for a marrow donation, with no match found, and those who didn't make it.

"If you ever had any doubts before," he says, these are stories that convince you to donate blood and register for the marrow program. "There's no reason not to. There are a million reasons why you should sign up ... not a reason why you shouldn't."

Mike also reflects on those who are reluctant to donate blood. "When somebody says they hate needles, I say '3-year-olds hate cancer.'"



"Your donation gives someone a second chance at life..."

Donor centers are located in Middletown, Narragansett, Providence, Warwick, Woonsocket and Westerly. For information on donating whole blood, platelets or bone marrow, contact the Rhode Island Blood Center at 453-8307 or visit ribc.org.

Meet Sister Ogonna Susanna Iwu

For anyone attending Mass at Christ the King or visiting the URI campus in Kingston, Sister Ogonna Susanna Iwu is easily recognizable, and that recognition relies on far more than the beautiful, colored veil that marks her as belonging to the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy Congregation, founded in Nigeria in 1960 by the Rev. Bishop Anthony Gogo Nwedo, who was the first bishop of the Umuahia Diocese. What makes Sister, a Nigerian who has been a nun for 25 years, stand out in any place you might meet her is a joy that cannot be missed.

The congregation Sister belongs to has its mother house in Nigeria but serves in many countries in Africa, North America, Europe and Asia. According to Sister, “Our apostolate is to bear witness to the mercy of God through our love and apostolate to the poor and the needy and through forgiving, accepting and helping one another. For our mission, we work in orphanages, nursing homes, hospitals, schools and parishes. My congregation [Daughters of Mary Mother of



Sister Ogonna Susanna Iwu

Mercy] has its own hospitals, clinics and schools.”

A nurse for 17 years, she received her nursing training in Germany where she worked as a nurse for 13 years before being posted to the United States. It is her role as a healthcare provider that brings Sister to URI where she is pursuing her Master of Science degree in Nursing Education.

Sister, an Apostle of Divine Mercy, says, “I derive my strength and joy in prayer. Prayer for me is like a hobby I cherish so much because through it I communicate and come close to God.” While she loves saying many prayers, her favorites are “Mass, Rosary, Stations of the Cross and daily adorations.”

She feels “very lucky and very grateful to God for bringing me to this beautiful University, a beautiful place of joy.” The abundance of her joy is obvious to those who cross her path. We at Christ the King are very lucky that her path often crosses ours.

— Mary Barszcz

Inducted into URI Athletics Hall of Fame

On March 7, my husband, Tom Drennan, was inducted into the University of Rhode Island Athletics Hall of Fame at a recognition brunch held at Quiddnessett Country Club in North Kingstown. The criteria to recognize and honor inductees includes those athletes, coaches or administrators who excelled in URI Athletics, calling attention locally, regionally and nationally to URI athletics, history and tradition. Certainly, he met those criteria.

Confucius said, “Choose a job you love, and you will never work a day in your life.” How appropriate for Tom to have lived this dream. His childhood quest of becoming a teacher and coach was indeed realized. It was in his DNA as

seven aunts and uncles were educators. Tom lettered in high school soccer, baseball and basketball. Graduation from Providence College began his journey as a high school history teacher and coach both in Wethersfield, Connecticut, and then in Providence. He was named the first Athletics Director and Coach of Basketball and Golf at then Roger Williams College in Bristol. The road continued as he was named Assistant Basketball Coach under Jack Kraft at URI and then Assistant Director of Financial Aid helping myriad students finance their education. In 1988, he was appointed URI’s Coach of Golf and the words of Confucius began to take root.

Tom led the Rams to 16 straight NCAA appearances, four Atlantic 10 Championships and 11 New England Intercollegiate Championships. In 2004, the team qualified for National Championships NCAA, which is the only time a New England team accomplished this. In 2004, he was

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Hall of Fame...



Tom Drennan

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selected as Head of the Delegation and Assistant Coach for Japan/USA games in Japan and also The Palmer Cup in Whistling Straits, Wisconsin.

During these years more than 10 young men became Academic All Americans, including six international players from Ireland, Bermuda and the Canary Islands. URI was

invited and played in the Taylor Made Big Island Classic in Hawaii for eight years and also the St. Croix Invitational USVI Tournament for two years.

Tom was named University of Rhode Island Coach of the Year twice, New England Coach of the Year 11 times, and A10 Coach of the Year four times. He received the Gordon McCullough Award from NEIGA for contribu-

tions to the game of golf and in 2007 he was inducted into the Golf Coaches of America Hall of Fame. He also served as President of The Golf Coaches Association of America for two years. In 2012, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Wethersfield High School.

Tom retired in June 2011, and in September as the school buses went by he said, "This is the first time in more than 60 years that I did not have a 'first day of school.'" Confucius might ask him to reflect on all those "first days" as young college men began their student athlete careers with him. He taught, coached, disciplined and loved as he called them to live up to their potential both athletically and academically. Well done, good and faithful teacher and coach.

The most cherished Hall of Fame Award belongs to his family and the titles that belong only to us ... Husband, Dad, Father-in-law and cherished Papa. Thank you for letting me share a bit of who Tom has been to the many young golfers at the University of Rhode Island – all of whom have been "his boys" as he lived the job he loved.

— Nancy Drennan

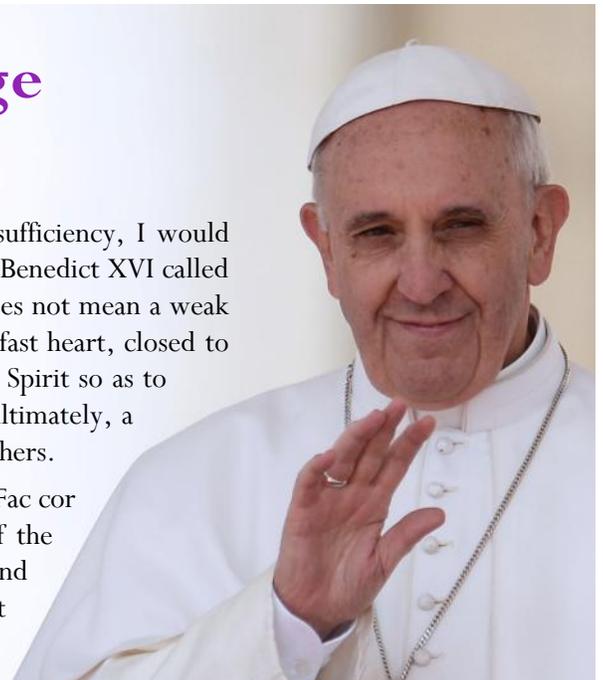
"Become a partner in God's work. Embrace the call to stewardship."

Pope Francis: Lenten Message

"Make your hearts firm!" (James 5:8)

"As a way of overcoming indifference and our pretensions to self-sufficiency, I would invite everyone to live this Lent as an opportunity for engaging in what Benedict XVI called a formation of the heart (cf. *Deus Caritas Est*, 31). A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God. A heart that lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters. And, ultimately, a poor heart, one that realizes its own poverty and gives itself freely for others.

"During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: 'Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum': Make our hearts like yours (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart that is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart that is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference."



*To everything there is a season
and a time for every purpose
under heaven. – Ecclesiastes 3:11*



A TIME TO LOVE –

NEW PARISHIONERS

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Short
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Smith
Ms. Carol Pilkington
Ms. Barbara Zaborski
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Podedworny
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Alba and family
Mrs. Maryann Bovie
Mr. and Mrs. Chet Boucher
Ms. Dianne Resinger
Mr. John Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mojkowski and family
Mr. Christopher Picerno
Ms. Lyn Trainor
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hudson and family
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gwiazdon and family

Mr. Thomas Schipritt
Ms. Robin Murray
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gobin
Mr. and Mrs. Vito Cote
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Agostini
Mrs. Inez Cote
Mr. Henry Morancey
Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Alston and family
Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Reilly and family
Mrs. Karen Agostinucci
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Coniglio
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brayton
Ms. Jennifer Albamonti and family
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Lizzi and family
Mr. and Mrs. Robert DelPrete and family

A TIME TO BE BORN –

BAPTISMS

Benjamin Thomas Woodward
Nathaniel Robert Woodward
Olivia Marilyn Fox
Chloe Jane Fielding
Paige Elizabeth Alston



A TIME TO DIE – *DEATHS*

Dora Forte
Emma Tavares

Mustard Seed

Newsletter of Christ the King Parish

Christ the King
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Lent and Holy Week Schedule

March 23 – Parish Reconciliation Service, 7 p.m.

March 29 – Palm Sunday

April 2 – Holy Thursday, 7 p.m.

April 3 – Stations of the Cross, Noon & 3 p.m.

Lord's Passion, 7 p.m.

April 4 – Easter Vigil, 8 p.m.

April 5 – Easter Sunday, 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m. & Noon

