Looking Forward

 Christmas is approaching and this year is quickly coming to an end. Despite the challenges of COVID-19 we still must continually plan, set goals, and strive for continued growth.In an article written byArchbishop Allen Vigneron, “Led by the Spirit: A Pastoral Note on Families of Parishes” he states that a status quo mentality is a bad habit, at odds with Christ “making all things new.” (Rev.21:5; UTG) He emphasizes that these past months are teaching us to adapt to circumstances we cannot control. At Christ the King me and the team are forward thinking in regards to the future and how we can continually improve, sustain, and add additional programs, partnerships, students and financial resources. We also understand the definitive need for an outstanding Catholic school which emphasizes religion and high academic standards. Our thinking is based along this verse.” Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” [Proverbs 15:22](https://dailyverses.net/proverbs/15/22). We also analyze and communicate with the parents whose students attend Christ the King. They appreciate all the elements that exist at Christ the King Catholic School and Church and they realize that we do not operate with the status quo mindset.

 To accomplish our goals now or in the future we have to continue having open communication, collaboration, and teamwork. In Archbishop’s Vigneron article he stated a task of this magnitude is impossible working alone. We need a continuedspirit of cooperation, a commitment to work together, coupled with a spirit of innovation. Having a missionary mindset requires a willingness to try new things, even to fail at times. In any organization these are the ingredients to success and growth. This year we have a variety of teams working together to ensure that not only get through COVID-19 but that we also flourish despite challenging times. At the school level we have an instructional leadership team, a school improvement team and we are recognizing and highly valuing parent feedback. We analyze many forms of data from standardized test and surveys and we incorporate all of this information into a framework that will serve as a roadmap for making Christ the King more productive for all stakeholders. This verse in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 can attest to importance of teamwork. “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.  Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?  Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

 Because of COVID-19 and civil and political unrest in the United States and the world many people have been absorbed by fear and doubt. The first thing you see when you watch the news is concerning COVID-19 and the statistics that follow it. Many people have become depressed and fearful because of what is going on. At the school and the church, we are proactive in our thinking and actions. To help eliminate fear in our community concerning civil unrest with injustices towards people of color, the church parishioners, led by Father Clore, have taken a stand on racial injustice through emphasizing the Blacks Lives Matter within the community. At the school level to eliminate doubt and fear concerning COVID-19, we are ensuring that we have many opportunities to get tested for COVID-19 at the school. These actions, among many others, have the purpose of reducing fear and doubt within the church and school. We are taking extra steps to ensure that that parishioners feel safe at school and students, teachers and staff feel safe at school. Our school is well sanitized, and we have the necessary procedures and protocols in place to safely continue virtual and in-person learning. Joe Urbiel, in addition to his duties as a deacon at Christ the King, has worked diligently and tirelessly to ensure that the buildings for Christ the King have proper air ventilation and heat and assists in the supervision of the sanitation and cleanliness. By ensuring all of this we are seeking to eliminate doubt which leads to fear. Archbishop Vigneron points out that doubt is the gateway to bad habits worming into our lives. We need to reject these bad habits and root them out. Opening our minds, hearts, and plans to trust in Jesus is the way to reject this bad habit. He also states that another bad habit is fear. We do not know what the future will hold but becoming paralyzed by fear cannot be a guiding principle. “Whenever we become aware of fears and anxieties influencing us, we can bring them before the Lord in all honesty and ask him to replace them with apostolic courage.” (UTG, 3.4 “Good & Bad Habits.”)

 As the Thanksgiving holiday has passed and we approach Christmas we still have quite a bit to be grateful for. Any day God wakes you up is a day to be grateful for. As I look at my life like many others, I fill blessed. Sure, there are many things that could be better but there could also be many things that could be worse. Remembering this, I try to never complain, and I am grateful for what God has given me and how he has blessed everyone I come into contact with. As Archbishop Vigneron stated a complaining attitude is a bad habit. Things will never be precisely to our liking. People will not always agree with us. But finding something to complain about does not build the Reign of God. It sows discouragement and despair.” No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”[1 Corinthians 10:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+10%3A13&version=ESV). The habit to follow is the attitude of gratitude. As stated in the Bible It is easy to be grateful when things go well; it is harder when faced with changes and uncertainties. A disposition of gratitude receives everything as a gift from God. (1Cor. 4:7). At Christ the King we have quite a bit to be grateful for we have an excellent church and school with an excellent and dedicated staff who have persevered and will continue to persevere despite any hardships that are currently taking place. We are all looking beyond today examining and preparing for the future. We are realistic but at the same time optimistic knowing that God will continue to shine His light on us.

Sincerely,

Ivan Branson

Principal

Christ the King Catholic School