



Your Rector's Reflections: Power for Mission

Pop quiz: can you name the seven Principal Feasts of the Church? (Answer on page 4)

A big hint: we will celebrate two of them during the month of June! The Day of Pentecost (the fiftieth day after Easter) celebrates the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the assembled believers in Jerusalem – and on every person baptized into Christ's Body since that amazing day. Then, a week later, Trinity Sunday calls us to celebrate the good news that God has been revealed to us in three inseparable, yet distinct ways which the Scriptures usually refer to as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our God is a God of relationship, beginning within the Godhead itself; and God wants us to have an intimate relationship with him through the new life we have in Jesus and in the power of the Spirit – and then immediately to share that love with others whom we meet.

At this time in our parish's history, the leadership group at Christ the King is focusing on how to provide opportunities for our members to take part in outreach and service endeavors, mirroring the compassion of our Lord Jesus. It is important to remember that the ministries we hope to carry out with the guidance of our Outreach Committee and under the oversight of the Vestry and clergy are not simply "acts of goodwill." They are to be carried out with the Spirit's power rather than our own, a power given through a diverse set of gifts – gifts which are always given for the common good rather than for our personal use (See 1 Cor. 12:4-13). Your job, and mine, is to listen to the still, small voice of God speaking in our hearts, calling us to use the gifts the Spirit has given us. (If you would like to learn more about which spiritual gifts you may be ready to exercise, please speak to Fr. Steve, who will give you some material designed to help you discern them.)

It needs to be said that many of our members are already involved in various ministries of this type – reaching out to others in the Name of Christ. A few are actually too busy serving to participate much in CTK's servant ministries – God bless them! However, what if every member of CTK had just one specific way of serving others? Over two hundred sets of hands, hearts, legs, and lips carrying out a major commitment of our Baptismal Covenant: to "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ" (Prayer Book 293 or 305). What a difference we could make in a hurting world! What a tremendous witness it would be (even if sometimes "behind the scenes") to our faith in the Lord! What an incredible blessing we would receive as well from the One who came among us "not to be served, but to serve" (Matthew 25:28)!!

There are many reasons people may give for not being involved in outreach: too old, too young, too busy with kids, too busy with aging parents, too busy with work – the list goes on and on. Nevertheless, in their heart of hearts they know that these are really excuses, not reasons. There is another person in the same set of circumstances (or much more challenging ones) who is obeying God's call to serve. If they could reprioritize their lives to include at least a small ministry of outreach and allowed God the space to step in, he will show them how. Through the Spirit's power, given for mission, each of us can say with St. Paul, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

May Pentecost 2006 be a time for each of us to allow the Spirit to support us where we are weak, to convict us where we need to change, and to transform us more and more into the likeness of Jesus, who is "the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15). May God bless the family of CTK as we seek new ways to reach out to the lost, the hungry, and the hurting in Christ's Name.

Your fellow servant in the Lord Jesus,

Fr. Steve+

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Antonio Cotto

January 4, 1939 – May 13, 2006

Fr. Cotto or Fr. Tony as most of knew him was an incredible man! When you stepped into his presence you felt an inordinate sense of peacefulness. He and Luz enjoyed 47 years of life together and raised two fabulous children, Anthony and Alice. In all of the stories told about Fr. Tony over the years, it was clear he was fun-loving and joyous!

Long before he answered God's call to ordained ministry, Fr. Tony lived out his "shepherd's heart". He was well educated with three master's degrees and part way through a Ph.D. program – all equipping him to serve those around him. He worked directly with clients in social work or he was raising money and other support for those who were less fortunate. In a move from New York to Texas, Fr. Tony found himself still in the midst of serving people and now in seminary. He completed his education and planted a church that became an incredible presence of Christ's reconciling work in the community.

Fr. Tony loved passionately, laughed passionately, lived passionately!! When Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter responded, "Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus then said to him, "Feed my sheep." This had to have been the same conversation Fr. Tony had with Jesus, because he spent his entire life feeding Jesus' sheep. Fr. Tony did not know a stranger and he certainly never turned someone away because they were somehow different. Instead, Fr. Tony was always reaching out! Since the beginning of this year, Fr. Tony had made 630 pastoral calls, significantly helped 75 people with community resources, finished training five people through an in depth Pastoral Care course, and prepared ten children for Confirmation and eleven children for 1st Communions. He also found time to attend three seminars, which would better equip him to feed Jesus' sheep. He had pulled together a plan to teach Citizenship classes and was always devising new ways to build the congregation of Cristo Rey.

Fr. Tony arrived in Orlando several years ago and struggled with health issues from the very beginning. But, nothing stood in his way. A story is told about a little girl who was stricken with polio. She had been having a conversation with one of her friends who had commented to her that having an affliction sure did color life. The little girl's response was, "Yes, but I get to choose the color!" Fr. Tony was just that way and the color he chose was vibrant red. Ailments were not going to keep him from joyfully living, feeding sheep, and loving his family and all of us! He kept on and on with amazing vigor! Fr. Tony has made a lasting impression --- loved people, love people!

As he dines at the banquet table with the Saints whom he has now joined, may he dance with joy and may our knowledge of this help heal the emptiness we feel as we miss his jovial presence in our lives.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Pentecost Sunday



The word "*pentecost*" means "fiftieth day." In most Christian traditions, Pentecost Sunday occurs 50 days following Easter Sunday (counting Easter Sunday since it is the first day of the week). Those 50 days span seven Sundays after Easter, so Pentecost is the seventh Sunday after Easter (7 weeks times 7 days = 49 days, plus Pentecost Sunday). Since Easter is a "movable feast," meaning that it occurs on different days in different years (it is tied to the lunar cycle while the calendar is solar based), Pentecost is also moveable.

It can occur as early as May 10 and as late as June .

Pentecost comes from a Jewish harvest festival called Shavuot. The apostles were celebrating this festival when the Holy Spirit descended on them. It sounded like a very strong wind, and it looked like tongues of fire. The apostles then found themselves speaking in foreign languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit. People passing by at first thought that they must be drunk, but the apostle Peter told the crowd that the apostles were full of the Holy Spirit.

The sanctuary color for Pentecost Sunday is red, the color of the church. The red symbolizes both the fire of Pentecost as well as the apostles and early followers of Jesus who were gathered in the Upper Room for the empowerment from God to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world. The symbols of Pentecost are those of the Holy Spirit and include: flames, wind, the breath of God and a Dove.

For Christians, Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate hope, a hope evoked by the knowledge that God through His Holy Spirit is at work among His people. It is a celebration of newness, of recreation, of renewal of purpose, mission, and calling as God's people. It is a celebration of God's ongoing work in the world. Yet, it is also a recognition that His work is done through His people as He pours out His presence upon them.

Around the Parish

Pat Roberts to Be Assigned to Christ the King. In a recent letter, Bp. John W. Howe formally indicated his intention that, should Pat Roberts be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons, she will be assigned to Christ the King under the supervision of Fr. Steve. Pat's ordination is tentatively scheduled for late this year, pending successful completion of the final steps in her pre-ordination process

Outreach Committee News

When the outreach committee met this Sunday we examined the need for a more organized food pantry. Our goal is to maximize the benefits of the donations received while streamlining the distribution process. As Jesus commanded us to give, Christ the King gives food to those who come in need. We are striving to match donations to needs. Grocery bags will be available in the back of the church with a list of the most essential items the pantry is missing. In addition to such staple items as peanut butter and jelly, soup, canned meats, rice and beans, personal toiletry items that cannot be obtained with food stamps are always welcome, as well as bus passes and grocery gift cards. Remember also that Christ the King is only the channel being used to give. On either side of that channel are you and God.

We will also be working with the Interfaith Hospitality Network. We will be receiving guests from May 30th to May 31st. If you are willing to cook a meal for up to 14 people, to entertain a group of people or even to get outside of your comfort zone and your comfortable bed by spending the night in Azalea Park, let Pastor Sonia or Karen Friday know.



Christian Formation Committee Planning 2006-2007 Programs

The Christian Formation Committee is hard at work planning programs for the 2006-2007 "academic year." Last year, a survey of the congregation produced several excellent ideas for adult topics, some of which are still available for the coming year. But the Committee would like to have more input, particularly from two groups of people: parents with children of Sunday School age, and youth in grades 6-12. *What courses, topics, or activities would you participate in if they were offered in the coming year?* Think about that. An opportunity for you to speak up is coming soon!



Coffee House a Huge Success ! Delicious desserts and astounding entertainment filled the evening of March 21st! Whitney Houston, Spike Jones, and Alfred Lloyd Tennyson were among many who joined us for the evening. It was an amazing night with a considerable sum of money raised to help our youth take off on their mission trip. Thank you for your help!

P.O.W will take a break during the summer. Look for a return of this wonderful midweek-week worship on September 6.



EYC Pool Party,
June 4th, 6p, at the
Cliftons.

Summertime Sunday School ; During the months of June, July, and the beginning of August, Adult Sunday School classes will continue at the discretion of the teachers. Nursery care will continue to be provided through the Sunday School hour. Movies appropriate for younger children will be shown in the parish hall.

Come to the Movies and Enjoy Dinner Too!

Join us on Friday night, June 16th, for a Covered Dish Supper followed by a Movie suitable for all ages! We'll start gathering around 6:45p and begin to eat at 7p. The movie will begin at 7:30p. Folks are welcome to eat during the movie. Bring a covered dish to share with others, a comfy chair in which to watch the movie (camp chairs/lawn chairs), and a friend or two! We'll provide beverages for dinner, a big screen movie, and pop corn!
Join us!!!



Youth News - Scholarship Fund

It has been said "it takes a village to raise a child." We believe that it is our responsibility as a church family to help the young people in our midst grow up in a Christian community and be challenged to own their faith. One way young people do this is through experiences in camps, retreats, and trips.

As summer approaches, we have many opportunities for our youth to participate in a variety of camps and retreats. Unfortunately, each of these costs money. Often it is a difficult burden for a family to bear the expense of the activities in which their youth would like to participate.

To this end, we are asking those in our "village" (our church family) who would like to make a contribution to a scholarship fund to please do so. Just mark "scholarship" on the memo line of your check. You can be assured that when a young person needs financial assistance to participate in an event, it will be provided for them.

Answers to "Pop Quiz" from Page One: The seven Principal Feasts are: Christmas Day (Dec. 25), Epiphany (Jan. 6), Easter (between March 22nd and April 25th), Ascension (40th day of Easter Season), Pentecost (50th and final day of Easter Season), Trinity Sunday (Sunday after Pentecost), and All Saints' Day (Nov. 1, and the Sunday following).



From Fr. Steve: About the Upcoming General Convention

The 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church will convene on June 13-21 in Columbus, Ohio. We are called to pray daily, beginning now (if not before), for all of the bishops and clerical and lay deputies gathering for that Convention.

An entire newsletter would not give enough space even to list, much less to describe, the legislative resolutions on the agenda for General Convention. I, for one, am heartened by what I have read of various proposals on how to continue to live and minister faithfully within the Anglican Communion while faithful Christians hold differing views on important issues facing the Church – as, in fact, has always been the case. If you would like to peruse the resolutions to be brought to the Convention, go to <http://gc2006.org/legislation> on the Internet.

One of the most important actions which will be taken at this year's Convention will be the election of a new Presiding Bishop, who will replace Bp. Frank Griswold in November of this year. Pray for the seven bishops who have been nominated, and for the House of Bishops which will elect Bp. Griswold's successor.

Needless to say, neither I nor anyone else can predict all of the outcomes from next month's gathering – although, as I said earlier, I am heartened by the sincere desire of those on all sides of the challenging issues to "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). Nevertheless, there are two important things I hope all will remember as General Convention approaches. First, do not form opinions about the actions of the Convention based solely on the secular press, who have historically done a less-than-adequate job of trying to report on complex Church issues in brief report segments. Second, never forget that God is in control of the Episcopal Church of which you and I are a part. We should always keep in mind what is

often called the Gamaliel Principle, put forth by a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin in Acts 5:38b-39 in response to the preaching of Peter and his companions: "...if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them – in that case you may even be found fighting against God!" The Holy Spirit will be present in a powerful way at the 75th General Convention, and by God's grace the Spirit's desire for unity and truth will prevail.

Vestry Notes

From the Rector: Vestry Revises Mission Statement at Spring Retreat

On May 20, the Vestry, Pastor Sonia and I met for a one-day retreat on the campus of Trinity Preparatory School, with the primary agenda item being a re-examination of CTK's mission statement, "to know Christ and to make him known." Before the gathering, each member of the Vestry had prayed about and written down answers to a series of questions about the purpose of CTK, the needs it exists to address, and the unique characteristics of our parish family.

After a discussion of the need for a revision of the mission statement, the group began the process of developing it. The process consisted of several steps:

- ❖ sharing answers to the pre-retreat questions
- ❖ looking at the mission statements of various churches and other organizations
- ❖ coming to consensus on the main thrust of the new statement and some draft revisions
- ❖ extended discussions about some of the key words included in the draft revisions shaping of the final wording.

Throughout the process, group members were encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings in favor of, or in objection to, various words, phrases, and concepts. The Spirit provided several good opportunities for laughter and the sharing of memories, which helped to connect the group's work to the tradition and ongoing life of the congregation. Near the end of the meeting, the Vestry voted unanimously to commend the following mission statement to the congregation: **Christ the King is a diverse community sharing the love of God with compassionate service and joy.**

As I write this article over a week after the retreat, it has come to my attention that the initial presentation of the new mission statement has raised some questions, which I will address here.

Q. Why do we need a new mission statement? What's wrong with "to know Christ and to make him known"?

Fr. Steve: The group determined that the existing mission statement, while worthy and time-tested, was not sufficiently self-explanatory or descriptive to be helpful to those *outside* CTK or those without an adequate knowledge of the person and work of Jesus. It is important for people to know at a glance *who* we believe ourselves to be (*a diverse community*, which we certainly are – just look at us! – although we are, blessedly, one in Christ); *what* we believe our mission to be (*sharing God's love*, the Good News of eternal life and salvation given in our Lord Jesus Christ); and *how* we intend to carry out our mission (*with compassionate service and joy*, mindful that what we do for others and the spirit in which we perform that service are central to what Christ the King has meant to so many for over 50 years). Finally, it's not like we're going to bury the former statement – it is certainly still true that we seek "to know Christ and to make him known," and by God's grace we will continue to do just that!

Q. There are lots of meanings which can be inferred from the word "diverse," which makes it a scary word to use in a mission statement.

Fr. Steve: There was more discussion about the word "diverse" during the revision process than any other word in the new statement, so we were aware that for some the word has connotations which make them uncomfortable. There were three reasons why I believe the group stayed with the word:

1. Christ the King *is* a diverse community! As I stated in my article in the May *Chi Rho*, I believe that our diversity is one of the greatest strengths of CTK. It would be boring to be a narrowly defined, "cookie-cutter" church; instead, our many-faceted diversity is a modern-day model of the Body of Christ as the early Christians envisioned it: Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave and free, all one in Christ Jesus. (See 1 Cor. 12:13, Gal. 3:28, Col. 3:11.) I believe

that our diversity makes us attractive to a wide variety of people seeking the Lord.

2. The word is not new! About a year ago, the Vestry approved the brochure we give to visitors which has as its opening statement the self-description "a diverse community seeking to know Christ and to make him known." This same self-descriptive paragraph has been on the opening page of our website since its inception. The paragraph goes on to describe some of the ways in which our diversity is visible, especially our welcoming attitude toward children.

3. There isn't another word to express what we value about the diversity of CTK. If there was one, I believe the Spirit would have revealed it to us!

Having said all of that, I am aware that the word remains "loaded" for a few. To those I would say: allow God to remove those preconceptions and accept the word at its face value, rather than "reading in" meanings which are not intended.

Q. The statement uses the phrase "God's love." Why not "Jesus' love"? Couldn't this be a mission statement for a non-Christian congregation?

Fr. Steve: To be honest, the use of the word "God" rather than "Jesus" never came up in the group's discussion, although we did talk a good deal about Jesus' example of servant-hood. I believe there are two reasons why "God's love" is a suitable choice:

1. There would be no reason to use the mission statement without linking it to the name of our congregation: *Christ the King*. A non-Christian congregation would not, and in good conscience could not, use that name in their statement of mission. So I believe the statement is safe from any misinterpretation that we are not a Christian community. (Somebody thought about saying "a diverse *Christian* community," but that seemed redundant immediately following "Christ the King.")

2. The mission statement is intended both for internal and external use. People outside the Church may not know (yet!) about how Jesus loves all people and draws them to himself. It will be our task to tell others, by word and example, that God's love is shown most clearly in Jesus, and that it is in Jesus' Name that we serve joyfully.

Finally, let me state for the record that I am extremely proud of the Vestry's work and Pastor Sonia's skill in facilitating the revision process. It was by far the most positive and focused such process in which I have ever been involved (and I've had several), and the Spirit's presence was tangible in our open and honest discussions. A new mission statement may take a while to grow on us, but I trust and pray that it will provide a fresh rallying cry for our family's life and ministry.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



14th Steve & Sonia Clifton
14th Mike & MaryLou Brannin
26th Ed & Mary Haddad
27th William & Barbara Scley

05th Sonia Sullivan-Clifton
07th David Williams
09th Jackie Hall
11th Rut Herron
16th Mary Gann
17th Ralph Jones
17th Mary Silvers
19th Diane Walters
21st Tracy Weldy
22nd Janet Donaldson
23rd Sharon Jones
24th Ron Hines
27th Bill Keyser
28th Michael Torres
30th Cameron Ramsay

Prayer: the great connector

Taken from God is in the small stuff by Bruce & Stan

One day the disciples requested of Jesus: "Teach us to pray." Jesus responded by giving them – and us – a marvelous model of prayer. What is so powerful about the Lord's Prayer, as it is known, is its utter simplicity:

Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come soon. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven. Give us food for today, and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 6:9-13 NLT

The key to prayer is to start simply and quietly. That's the idea behind Jesus' model prayer. We need a touchstone, a place to start. Then, as we get to know God better, we will feel comfortable sharing the most intimate details of our lives with Him.

If the Bible is God talking to us, then prayer is us talking to God. It's the primary way of connecting to the infinite, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving God. Edward Ferrell wrote the "without prayer, there is no way, no truth, no life." Without prayer, you can never get close to God.

Try it. Start small. Start with the small stuff in your life. Talk to God about it in a quiet, isolated place where your self-consciousness isn't an issue. As you continue daily, your capacity for prayer will grow larger. That's because prayer is like a muscle. If you exercise it regularly, your prayer muscle will gain strength and your appreciation for God will grow immeasurably. On the other hand, if you don't use it, your prayer muscle will shrivel up and your capacity for God will shrink. And in those times of crisis when you suddenly feel compelled to pray, it will likely be a painful experience.

The good news is that God doesn't put conditions on your prayer life. His feelings don't get hurt when you don't pray. But when you do, He connects with you in a powerful way. Try it today. Try it right now. Talk to God. He's listening.



- Prayer changes things.
 - The next time you feel weak in the knees, try using them to pray.
 - At its core, prayer is giving yourself to God.
 - When you pray, be careful to distinguish your needs from your desires.
 - Prayer without effort will be insincere. Effort without prayer will be ineffective.
 - If your prayers don't mean anything to you, they mean even less to God.
 - Live humbly and pray likewise.
 - Don't pray for a lighter load. Pray for a stronger back.
 - Become quiet before God in the busiest and noisiest part of your day.
 - Prayer involves listening to God as well as speaking to Him.
 - You can't stand up to Satan if you don't kneel before God.
 - People of God may not talk about their prayer habits, but their lives speak volumes.
 - There is no such thing as a successful or unsuccessful prayer.
- Pray as if the task depends on God and work as if it depends on you.
 - Pray with perseverance and expectancy.

Bible Trivia

I made a mistake that changed the world.
It
Took only a second, a weak moment and a few
encouraging words from someone else. Now
things will never be the same.
Who am I?

Have you
read any
good books
lately,
listened
to any
great
music that
will
inspire us
.

A Mother's Role
Submitted by Sonia Clifton

If I live in a house of spotless beauty with everything in its place, but have not love, I am a housekeeper—not a homemaker. If I have time for waxing, polishing, and decorative achievements, but have not love, my children learn cleanliness—not godliness. Love leaves the dust in search of a child's laugh. Love smiles at the tiny fingerprints on a newly cleaned window. Love wipes away the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk. Love picks up the child before it picks up the toys. Love is present through the trials. Love reprimands, reproves, and is responsive. Love crawls with the baby, walks with the toddler, runs with the child, and then stands aside to let the youth walk into adulthood. Love is the key that opens salvation's message to a child's heart. Before I became a mother, I took glory in my house of perfection. Now I glory in God's perfection of my child. As a mother, there is much I must teach my child, but the greatest of all, is love.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist - English
11:00 a.m. – Sunday school
11:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist - Spanish

Office hours – Mon.-Thurs – 9-3
Fri – 9-noon

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