

January 2016

Special points of interest:

- **Vision 2020, an opportunity to dream big.**
- **Where we are today.**
- **Places and spaces where the work of Christ takes place.**
- **Your opportunity to leave a Catholic legacy.**

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Burn the Mortgage!

From Our Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

We all want to make a difference, to belong, and to feel like our lives really matter. As Catholics, we are privileged to belong to God and to the Church founded by our Savior, Jesus Christ. As members of Christ the King Cathedral, we have an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy of love. With God's help, we will combine our resources for the final phase of our "PrAY IT OFF" campaign, and in 2020, we will burn the mortgage!

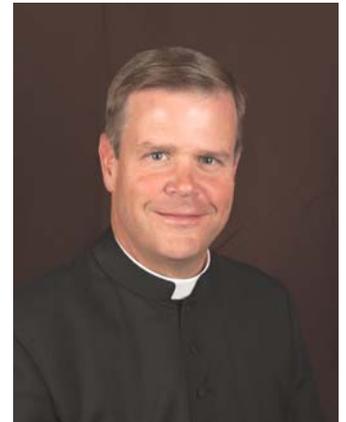
You may wonder why we need your help. Because each of us is a member of the Body of Christ, each of us has a unique role to fulfill. You matter because it is your Church.

Christ the King Cathedral makes a powerful statement of the Catholic presence in our community as well as in the entire Diocese of Lubbock. The Cathedral hosts ordinations and many other major liturgical events that draw large crowds of worshippers from 25 counties. It deserves to be a showcase to glorify God, to unite us in one central place.

Consider what the Church means to you and to your family, what the Church is worth to you. Consider what it means to have this beautiful space available for meeting and studying Scriptures, celebrating milestones in the life of our parish, sharing meals at potluck suppers, and teaching the faith to members, newcomers and potential converts.

Consider also what it means to you as a Catholic Christian to be able to take a stand for goodness in a world shaken by the continuous threat of terrorism and evil. Think about providing a sanctuary at Christ the King Cathedral for all of your brothers and sisters who seek the truth. We are building relationships with each other and with Christ, the true Cornerstone. Imagine all the future generations of believers, including priests and sisters, who will benefit from the fruits of your labor. Your gift is a tribute to your faith.

God showers us with blessings each day. We honor our Lord when we put him first in our lives and give him the best we have to offer. With grateful



hearts, we are giving back to him only a share of those same gifts we have received. Remember that God always gives more to us than we can possibly return to him. Jesus promises, "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over.... For the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Luke 6:38).

I have faith in God to supply our needs. I also believe that each of you will respond generously as you have so many times in the past. Know that what you do with your life matters to God. What you decide to give to God matters to him and also to all of us who, as fellow faithful stewards, are counting on each other. United by a sacred purpose, we joyfully share our treasure with the Church to build a legacy of love. Please ask the Holy Spirit to be your guide as you prayerfully make a commitment to our "PrAY IT OFF/Burn the Mortgage" campaign. God bless you!

Peace,

Fr. Bill

Father Bill





We Count Our Blessings

Jesus, we praise you, we love you, we honor you in your most Holy presence, in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel. May our love for the Eucharist grow within us.

Lead the hearts of our parishioners to your most Sacred Heart. Influenced with the fire of your love we seek nothing but your greater glory and Salvation of Souls.

Jesus, we humbly bless and thank you, for the Early Childhood Development Center and Christ the King Cathedral School. You said, "Let the children come to me." You laid hands on them and blessed them. We want to bring up our children in the Catholic faith environment. Jesus, we thank you for our Family Activity Center to strengthen our family bonds and to support our broken homes. In these difficult times bless our youth and our teens in purity of mind and heart.

Lord, as we continue this "PrAY IT OFF" campaign, help all of us to spiritually discern to be most generous and kind. When we give, we are giving to you Lord. The more we know you, the more we love you!

May this campaign provide the best ministries to our families, children and grandchildren. Jesus, as we believe in the Power of your Holy Name, may we receive your most abundant blessings.

*Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for our parish family.
Amen.*

Our Vision for 2020

Back in 2005, Christ the King Cathedral undertook a visioning process to dream big. The process involved all ages and backgrounds of parishioners, including our founding members who established our Catholic legacy here in the center of Lubbock in the 1950s never dreaming their parish would someday serve as the Cathedral for a 25-county Catholic population of 136,894. It also involved our newest families, who hoped to build upon that legacy for their children and grandchildren.

This look into the future was called **Vision 2020 – Improvement in Sight** and its objective was to create a vision of what our parish community might look like in the year 2020 as well as to identify the development strategies and infrastructure required in order to achieve it.



As We Enter 2016

Many of our parishioners have been faithful in their support of the **PrAY IT OFF** campaign that ends in March. Additionally, Father Bill exercised good stewardship by re-bidding our loan among three different banks to reduce interest from 5 to 3.5 APR.

Unfortunately, our remaining debt balance will be approximately **\$1.6 million** at the time



After a series of meetings and several surveys of the entire parish community the final list was identified and prioritized by our parishioners as:

1. A large activity center for youth group and parish use
2. Additional meeting space for community outreach, adult education facilities, etc.
3. Church library with Bibles, spiritual books, videos, DVDs, CDs, etc.
4. School library
5. Day care facility providing child care during the work

6. Additional classrooms for the school
7. Completing our Daily Adoration Chapel
8. Improving facilities for our choirs
9. Completing the bell/church tower
10. Additional gym facilities for use by the parish and/or school

Today, with just four years left until 2020, and thanks to the generosity of parishioners who have invested in our legacy through two capital campaigns – **The Love of Christ Compels Us** (July 2005-June 2010) and **PrAY IT OFF: 5 in 5** (April 2011-March 2016) we have achieved virtually all of the goals identified in 2005 and now have a physical complex, which is in constant use, with an insured replacement cost in excess of \$23 million dollars.

And though we can place a value on these many wonderful facilities, truly priceless is the work of Christ taking place within their walls.

Did you know?

More than 890 events take place in our Family Activity Center each year.

payments on the campaign end. Adding the projected interest, we must raise **\$2.1 million** – over and above weekly offertory, special collections and Diocesan Catholic Appeal – in order to **fully retire parish debt by the Feast of Christ the King 2020.**

Imagine our parish completely debt free! Imagine our resources free of bank interest payments! What might we be able to invest

in our ministries and outreach programs? What resources could we make available to our liturgical ministries, our catechetical and youth programs? What type of endowment would we be able to build to create perpetual earnings for the operation of our parish? What dreams might we accomplish in the future? What will be **our** legacy to building the Catholic faith here in the center of Lubbock?

More Than Bricks and Mortar

Thank you for the Sunday morning **Catholic on Purpose** classes for adults. After Confirmation, I thought I'd "graduated" from learning more about my faith. Now while my kids are in CCE, I am discovering the rich pillars of our faith. I never want to stop learning.

Each time I step into the **Bishop Plácido Rodríguez Hall**, I know it's going to be a special time with special friends. From the receptions, to the great food and fellowship at parish potlucks, to the joy in my grandkids' faces during **Sweets with Santa**, to **Bible Fest**, to seeing our deacons model in the **Women's Organization Style Show**, to the **Knights of Columbus Fish Dinners** during Lent. It's hard to imagine parish life before we had this great space.

The **Early Childhood Development Center** has done more to contribute to the growth in enrollment at **CTKC School** than any other thing. Many families come to the **ECDC** for its reputation and the accredited Montessori program, but come to embrace the Christ centered environment for their children. When the kids are ready for elementary school, parents naturally want that same learning atmosphere that incorporates Gospel values into daily life.

During an **en-coun-ter Catholicism©** presentation, Ann Krier brought some Thomas Merton



titles available in our **parish lending library**. I am embarrassed to say that, until then, I was unaware of this wonderful resource available to us 24/7. I now regularly check out titles and am "gifting" the library with other good Catholic books and DVDs so that others may be blessed like I have been.

Our expanded facilities in **Christ the King Cathedral School** are making many new programs possible. Just recently, I was able to visit one-on-one with a young middle school student in the **library** to answer her questions about **religious life**. I was impressed with her maturity and true interest in my 60 year **vocation**.

The **Catholic Foundation** is grateful to the good people of Christ the King Cathedral for always opening your door to serve the larger Church of Lubbock. You have hosted

our **Winterfest** dinners and our **Red Mass** receptions for many years now and we always receive wonderful compliments on your beautiful facilities and warm hospitality.

My husband and I weren't part of the parish when the school and church were built; but, when we joined in 1985, we knew that the **Catholic legacy** at Christ the King had been handed to our generation. We have been a part of every capital campaign to upgrade/expand facilities or retire debt since then. We know our gifts are not as much as some and more than others. The amount of our gifts doesn't matter as long as they truly reflect our gratitude to God for all he has given to us.

It may be one of the less visible projects from **Vision 2020**, but those of us in **music ministry** are grateful for the dedicated spaces we now have for each choir's robes, instruments and music. Thank you!

My family discovered **Bible Fest** this year. What a great event! I have to admit, I really didn't open up my Bible during the week until then. I now know there's more to gain from it than relying only on the Sunday readings during Mass.



The **Blessed Sacrament Chapel**, open 24 hours daily, draws Catholics from throughout the area to spend time in prayer in the **True Presence of Our Lord**.

We are a retired couple who have had an assigned adoration time since CTKC initiated perpetual adoration. My husband, especially, is eager to visit the Blessed Sacrament Chapel whenever he can. The chapel creates an atmosphere for quiet intimacy with the Lord. We teach CCE classes and believe the grace received from Eucharistic adoration helps us in that ministry.



The **Bishop Plácido Rodríguez Hall** hosts thousands of people every year for workshops, receptions, fundraisers, athletics events and social gatherings of our parish family.



Burn the Mortgage!

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Larger, dedicated space for our youth has enhanced CTKC's programming for young Catholics who are putting on their spiritual armor.

The dedicated space for youth to meet, play and share faith is one of the most important aspects of the Family Activity Center. I have been blessed to serve in this ministry since our days before the FAC. If more people in our parish were able to see the powerful conversions taking place in our young people, they'd sign up to work in youth ministry in a heartbeat.



The Parish Jamaica brings out the best in all of us!

What the Family Activity Center Means to Us

One of my favorite events each year is the **Parish Jamaica**. For me, it's a race to get the egg rolls before they're gone, but for my kids it's hours of fun with tickets in hand as they move from game to game, get their faces painted and eat nutritious food like cotton candy, popcorn and sodas.

When are we going to get Father Bill and Father Joy to take turns in the dunking booth?

Living each day with an alcoholic in the family is a painful suffering that can cripple your own wellbeing. My weekly **Al-Anon** meeting helps me make it through each day. Thank you for providing a place for us to meet so healing can occur.

When my father died, I needed the affirmation that what I was going through was okay. Those **weekly**

meetings in the Family Activity Center with others **experiencing loss** kept me sane.

The **Discovering Jesus prayer path** set up in the **Family Activity Center** during Advent was an awesome spiritual experience. Even though I went through it two years in a row, I found it to be impactful in a different way each time. I am grateful that we have the space to make these types of things possible here at CTKC.



At the end of Mass the deacon says, "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." The activities that take place in our **Family Activity Center** are ways we do that as a community of faith. Whether it's our **bereavement meals, grief share, classes and workshops, Bible Fest, social gatherings, meetings, youth groups, or support ministries**, the FAC is every bit as sacred to our parish as is our sanctuary.

Burn the Mortgage!

PrAY IT OFF Burn the Mortgage kicks off the weekend of **January 16-17** at all Masses. You will hear lay witness talks from parishioners whose lives are being transformed here at Christ the King Cathedral. You also will be asked to prayerfully consider participation in this campaign.

Commitment weekend is **January 24-25**, at which time you will receive a pledge form to complete. Present donors are asked to continue making payments for 56 months when their current payments end in March. Donors may elect to keep their annual payments the same, or increase them as God allows.



Just as vital to the success of this campaign is the **participation of new parish members or families who did not participate in this last campaign**. This is your opportunity to share in the legacy of Christ the King Cathedral - the legacy that built the Catholic identity from a bare field on the outskirts of Lubbock to the wonderful community of faith

that now serves as Cathedral for the entire Diocese of Lubbock.

All commitments to PrAY IT OFF Burn the Mortgage begin in April. You may pay annually, quarterly, monthly or on the schedule you desire by check, bank draft or electronic giving.

With **participation from everyone**, we will be able to burn the mortgage on the Feast of Christ the King 2020, retiring our debt approximately nine years ahead of schedule and saving an additional \$460,000 in interest payments. Imagine the possibilities for ministry as a **debt free parish!** Just as our Vision 2020 asked us to do, the time is now to **Dream Big!**

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the goal for PrAY IT OFF Burn the Mortgage realistic?

Yes. With just \$2.1 million remaining in principal and interest our goal of a debt free parish is in clear sight. We reached out to many parishioners for advice as we developed this campaign. They encouraged us, emphasizing the long legacy of generous support by our parishioners through each generation. We received \$2.1 million in 56 months during the last campaign. With wider participation, we can raise this same amount in the 56 months between April 2016 and November 2020.

Does any debt remain on the school?

Payments made in prior campaigns as well as a generous grant from the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Orange have retired the capital debt on improvements made to Christ the King Cathedral School, thanks be to God.

What percentage of the parish community responded in the last campaign?

Approximately 40 percent of our parish community participated in **PrAY IT OFF: 5 in 5**.

Does the bishop approve of this campaign?

Yes. Although this effort is completely separate from any pledges made to the Diocese of Lubbock - such as the Diocesan Catholic Appeal - and is a free-standing capital campaign only for Christ the King Cathedral, it has the whole-hearted endorsement of Bishop Rodríguez. In fact, he has committed to make his own pledge and has encouraged us to ask for additional support from Catholics outside of the parish community.

Why so many capital campaigns?

Quite frankly, we achieved a 15-year growth plan for our parish within a few short years of

PrAY IT OFF Burn the Mortgage

Examples of Commitments

56 Months (Apr 2016 -Nov 2020)	Annually (One Payment Each Yr 2016-2020)	Total
5,000	56,000	280,000
2,500	28,000	140,000
1,000	11,200	56,000
500	5,600	28,000
250	2,800	14,000
100	1,120	5,600
75	840	4,200
50	560	2,800
25	280	1,400

visioning it. The opportunity to build at the time we did was made possible by divine providence and a successful **The Love of Christ Compels Us** campaign in 2005-2010. Further, were we to build these facilities today, the construction costs would be staggering.

Yet, paying for all those projects required a long-term mortgage, so we have had more campaigns. We have not changed our vision of retiring our debt by 2020.

I see the weekly offerings are going down. Are my payments to the PrAY IT OFF campaign being used for monthly operating expenses?

No. In fact, the reverse is true. **Almost \$94,000 in payments was taken from weekly collections when that money was needed to make payments**

on the note. All of the funds received from the capital campaigns have been used to pay interest and principal. Fr. Bill and the Finance Council have the highest commitment to retiring the debt, often at the expense of operating the parish.

How much should I give?

Only you know your situation. Your gift should be an expression of your gratitude to God. We do not ask for equal gifts, but equal sacrifice from every member of our parish. **PrAY IT OFF Burn the Mortgage** is our way of making the Body of Christ work. This Body of Christ is dependent on every member doing his or her part so that the body can function properly.

Why should I participate?

Your gifts to Christ the King Cathedral - whether your weekly offertory or your payments on capital campaigns - are **a return to God of what already is his.** We are stewards of all his many blessings, one of which is this community of faith, which reaches out in love and mercy to do the work of Christ.

Christ told us to love one another, not in some abstract way, but in personal and concrete ways. The kingdom of heaven awaits us in the future, but it is also already present. Stewardship is our way of building the kingdom in the here and now. Whenever we are generous with our time, talent and treasure, we help bring the kingdom of God into existence.

“Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on our own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed.” Isaiah 58:7-8



Our expanded facilities have created new adult continuing education opportunities such as en-coun-ter Catholicism© and Catholic on Purpose.

I was interested in becoming Catholic, so late last spring, Father Bill suggested that I visit the weekly en-coun-ter Catholicism© sessions. They became the highlight of my week. I was impressed with the diversity of topics and knowledge of the various speakers. Needless to say, I was ready to move into the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults when inquiry sessions started last August.



Our annual Bible Fest continues to grow in popularity.



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A Word from Our Bishop



Dear Parishioners of Christ the King Cathedral,

I have always admired your Catholic faith in every respect – in your liturgies, music, commitment to Catholic education, outreach to the “least” among us, outreach to the hospitals and hospices, to those who wish to become Catholics, to those who continually care for our home Cathedral.

I also admire the previous successful Capital Campaigns since **Vision 2020** in 2005, which made it possible to have so

many facilities, including the new Adoration Chapel and Bell Tower – to the delight of John Gaschen, of happy memory, and Dr. Gene Scioli.

The leadership of your Cathedral Community is visioning a conclusion through a **PrAY IT OFF Burn the Mortgage** capital stewardship campaign (2016-2010). I ask that you make this campaign a success by your support, pledge, and, above all, a “sacrifice” that includes prayer. As I encourage your one hundred percent participation, I ask myself how much of my resources I

willingly contribute so as to achieve your worthy goal—*Burn the Mortgage!* Let your generosity be rewarded by God, who sees what you give in secret (Matthew 6:3-4).

I pray that your initiative will let the Cathedral continue to reach out with the *Mercy of God*.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend Plácido
Rodríguez, CMF
Bishop of Lubbock