October 2019

Dear Friends of Christ the King Community,

“Compassion and generosity know no boundaries.” I recently hear a story about your compassion and generosity.

You may remember the encampment along Hiawatha Avenue last winter, a very cold winter for all of us. But imagine how cold it was for people living in tents during a Minnesota winter. When one is “homeless”, every bit of warmth and food is a gift for one’s survival.

The people of Christ the King made a loving decision to include the tent people in their Christmas gift-giving by collecting and giving long underwear to everyone living in the encampment.

This simple act of compassion and generosity reminds us why Christ the King parish exists and needs to continue to exist. We are a community that follows in the footsteps of Jesus, helping each other to live the Gospel in our challenging times.

We take seriously Jesus’ words in Chapter 25 of Matthew’s Gospel:

*“I was hungry …homeless …naked…hungry…ill…in prison…thirsty…and you did it for me.”*

When I was asked to consider being pastor of Christ the King, it didn’t take long to say ‘yes’. For me, a parish is all about people, people who are baptized into the community of Christ. Of all the small communities, organizations, clubs, and groups you belong to, there is not one that is as unique as your faith community.

All are welcome. All share the unique identity of being the sons and daughters of God.

For the last 80 years this local community has been evolving and changing by the grace of God, but always faithful to Christ and nourished by the Word and Eucharist. This a great community and I hope to be with you for as long as I can – with God’s grace.

I pray that you will want to remain as a member of Christ the King and welcome new members to our parish. We can make a real difference by working and praying together. We also need you to help support our parish financially.

We need a physical space to gather in for Sunday Eucharist, to celebrate the sacraments, a place to pray together and to help our children and youth to grow in the love for God and neighbor. It takes money to keep a parish running.

This past year, we saw a drop in giving, but the parish staff did a masterful job of ensuring our budget remained balanced.

Staff hours, positions, and programming were reduced, creating a real challenge to our mission. In order to be a flourishing parish, we must provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of our parishioners and the broader community that relies on us.

Will you please prayerfully consider what you can give as good stewards of Christ the King? Thank you for your generosity over the years.

Forward together, and no one left behind.

You are always remembered in my daily prayers.

Fr. Bill Murtaugh