

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL AT CHRIST THE KING PARISH

Case Study



THE CHALLENGE

In 2014, Christ the King, a dynamic parish with a history spanning over a century, partnered with Catholic Leadership Institute to embark on a transformative journey. Their goal was to gather meaningful insights from parishioners' feedback, cultivating a deeper sense of mission and purpose within the parish.

This process started with the parish releasing a survey to parishioners called the Disciple Maker Index (DMI). This survey revealed a significant learning about the people in their parish community: only 65% of parishioners believed in the Real Presence of the Eucharist, marking this the lowest score among other participating parishes in their diocese.

This eye-opening statistic prompted Christ the King to recognize the imperative need for thoughtful discernment and strategic planning in order to more effectively fulfill their mission of "helping people authentically encounter Jesus Christ, be built as his disciples, and go out and transform the world."

THE SOLUTION

Utilizing this quantitative insight, Christ the King incorporated a "Eucharistic Revival" into the curation of their data-informed pastoral plan. Recognizing the profound significance of the Eucharist as the "source and summit of our faith" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1324), the parish wasted no time in prioritizing it across all facets of parish life.



New Eucharist Adoration Hours Announced



"The opportunity Christ the King has provided to me for a scheduled hour of Adoration weekly has been a true blessing. Knowing that I've made the commitment and sacrifice of time to be present with our Lord and Savior has helped me to achieve more inner peace and freedom in my daily life. These benefits have had a positive impact on me individually and my family, friends, and peers. I believe Adoration helps me to open myself to His grace, which in turn leads to Jesus' calling of ongoing sanctification of my soul, my family's souls, and the souls of my brothers and sisters in Christ, to be realized."

- Christ the King Parishioner



Every decision undertaken by Christ the King was marked by careful discernment, discussion, prayer, and planning. Some initiatives that the parish implemented include:

MASS CARDS IN EVERY PEW

The mass card explained the symbolism and significance of different aspects of the liturgy. This served as a valuable resource for non-Catholics and those new to the faith, enriching their worship experience.

EMPHASIS ON THE TABERNACLE

Christ the King moved the tabernacle from a less centralized location to directly behind the altar. This served as a reminder of the central role of the Eucharist in the lives of the faithful.

THEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION

Opportunities were crafted to delve into deeper discussions for those more theologically inclined and included topics such as profound experiences and perspectives of saints regarding adoration and the Eucharist.



Mass Card and Adoration Poster



CATECHESIS SESSIONS

Weekly catechesis sessions were established to empower parishioners to fully embrace the transformative graces of the sacraments and adoration.

CURATING SACRED SILENCE

An emphasis was made to shift the socialization aspect of gatherings from inside the Church to outside of the nave. This intentionality fostered a deeper sense of sacredness during the Mass and helped Mass-goers more fully experience the transformative nature of the liturgy.

EUCCHARISTIC PRESENCE

The parish expanded times for adoration and confession to cater to the diverse schedules and needs of parishioners.

Fr. Daniel Mueggenborg (now Bishop of Reno) was the pastor at the time when the planning first began. Having a plan in place aided the pastor transition when the current pastor, Fr. Elkin Gonzalez, came to Christ the King.

Fr. Elkin Gonzalez says that everything the parish does now “is advancing the mission that has been strategically and deliberately discerned – we are not merely filling the parish calendar just for the sake of it; rather, each endeavor advances our carefully crafted mission.”

In 2022, the parish also established an intercessory team as part of their strategic plan that includes the Eucharistic Revival. The team prays for the authentic advancement of the parish’s mission, vision, and strategic planning process.

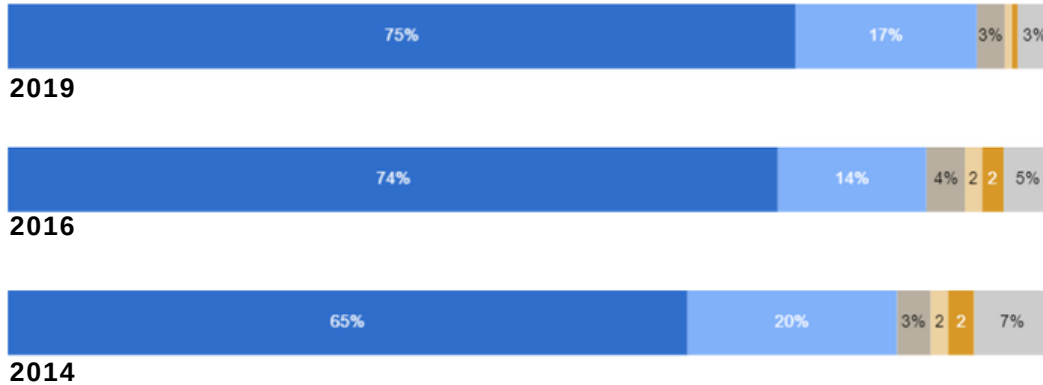


“I started going to Adoration regularly because it seemed like something I “should” do, like exercise or eating well. It was a sacrifice of my precious time. What I have come to realize is that in giving my time to the Lord, He has given me the gift of His time as well. He is here with me; He has been waiting for me. It is a gift!”

- Christ the King Parishioner

DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY

Drawing upon insights derived from the Disciple Maker Index survey, the data has proven instrumental in validating the effectiveness of these initiatives and gaining an understanding of the desires, concerns, aspirations, and beliefs of the parishioners. The graph below shows the growth in response to the following statement: "The Eucharist really is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ."



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- I Do Not Know

*Note: data collected included 557 submissions in 2014, 520 in 2016, and 598 in 2019. This holds a range of difference of 78, which CLI deems is minimal, therefore demonstrating the success of this Eucharistic Revival at CTK parish.

THE INVITATION

These findings from Christ the King Parish, generated through Catholic Leadership Institute's assistance, offer important takeaways for any parish to consider. Some key insights include:

- 1 Intentional Apostolic Action:** Having a direct, intentional, and carefully discerned plan of apostolic action allows a parish to have a clear sense of direction and purpose. This prevents the risk of drifting into a state of 'maintenance mode' where busyness leads to a lack of intentionality. Honing in on specific initiatives across different ministries helps promote uniformity and a clear cut way to proceed.
- 2 Prudent Decision-Making:** It is an act of prudence to lead strategically and methodically. It is hard to account for blessings bestowed upon the community if no strategy is driving it. Additionally, leading with deliberation allows for a parish to exhibit success amid pastor and leadership transitions
- 3 Empowered Community:** With a clear sense of direction and clarity, a parish community is able to receive a renewed level of self-initiative that is rooted in mission. Consideration amongst different ministries, leaders, and parishioner's is key to initiatives being successful.
- 4 Making the Intangible, Tangible:** Use visual and tactile strategies to promote strategic initiatives, such as Christ the King's example of moving the tabernacle and providing Mass cards. This elevates a parish's initiatives and bring them to the forefront of the community's daily faith practice.

The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of our Faith - it is the core of our beliefs, from which all else stems. Christ the King's growth in belief of the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist is a compelling testament of the benefits that deliberate planning has on a parish. Catholic Leadership Institute's Disciple Maker Index surveys have made a difference in the spiritual journey of the parishioners at Christ the King Parish in Tulsa, OK. This community has emboldened itself to nurture greater faith, community, and authentic love for Christ and others.