



The Open Door

Open wide the door to Christ! - St. John Paul the Great

JULY 2018

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What I learned from my dad about being a Catholic dad

Editor's note: Christ the King has the great blessing of being home to a number of multi-generational families. For this issue of The Open Door, we decided to ask a few of our young dads, "What did you learn from your dad about being a Catholic dad?" I know that there are many more stories out there, but space constraints prevent us from sharing them all here. I encourage you to share them with each other! — TH

John Kopinski
Every night before my children go to sleep I give them a blessing. It's something I learned from my Papa, who used to do the same for me and my siblings. It bears a significance I can't quite explain. When I was a child it offered a certain peace no matter the storms or calm going on at the time. My Papa's blessing still plays a role in my life today, even as I have kids of my own now.

The value of blessing my children wasn't the only thing I learned from my

Papa. I also learned about the role and value of adult friends to your children. Specifically, my Papa's friends played an important role in my life. These men provided examples and a community that augmented my Papa's strengths, resulting in a more complete picture of being a Christian father. It probably helps that many of their children are my life-long friends.

I vividly remember him attending all my hockey games in high school, even

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"We exist to joyfully worship God and carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit." -
Mission Statement of Christ the King

Let the Fire fall!

There has been a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit that has been touching many aspects of our parish life

My brothers and sisters, the Lord Jesus continues to bless us abundantly! There has been a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit that has been touching many aspects of our parish life.

The Fuel, Life Teen, and Upper Room prayer meetings have experienced a real surge of the Spirit's presence and power. It is such a gift and a blessing to see the Lord Jesus moving among our youth. May all of us continue to live with an openness, a transparency, to the Holy Spirit that inspires all our youth to go all out for the Lord Jesus.

It is also a time of transition as we thank God for the ministry of some very key folks who are moving toward retirement. (Which we know, of course, just usually means more work for less pay!) Barbara Morgan's service to our parish and the Church as a whole has been a tremendous gift to us!



Fr. Ed Fride is Pastor of Christ the King.



more open to the gentle movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It will impact how we welcome folks, our preaching, our music — really, every part of our lives. May we be open to all that the Lord Jesus intends for us! We have been so blessed with an amazing staff that is so gifted and has hearts so open to the King of Kings. Please keep them in your prayers as they serve you. May we all be even more open to loving each other and loving

the King of Kings! — Fr. Ed Fride

May we be open to all that the Lord Jesus intends for us!

Welcoming Susan Perrier to the staff to work in this vital area of service to our youth is also a great blessing to us.

As we move toward being even more welcoming to the new people whom the Lord Jesus will send us, we recognize that this will stretch us, requiring all of us to be even

Art: *Fire Flowers—Garden Series* by Gwen Meharg. The artist writes, "These worshippers have CAUGHT the FIRE, are ON FIRE, and are RELEASING the FIRE!" For more information about Gwen and her prophetic art, go to her website, www.drawneartogod.com.

What I learned from my dad...



Peter, John, Frank, Ben, and Ted Kopinski with their dad, Don.

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 when I sat on the bench for entire games. He still comes to the games my brothers and I play today. I also remember him driving me 9 hours up to college and stopping at a hardware store to buy lumber to build a dorm room storage shelf with no design. We figured it out and built it together so my hockey gear had a place in the dorms.

These memories cement my Papa's commitment to me. He regularly gave of himself, and still does so for his children and grandchildren today.

Lastly, my Papa taught me to be my own man, in service of others. This doesn't mean that I'm exactly like him. There certainly are traits and interests we have in common. We both share a love for writing and playing music. We both appreciate the raw outdoors and the joy of smelling like a smoky

campfire on the shores of Lake Superior. We both value our Catholic faith, our families, and hockey...in that order. But our interest in cooking is pretty diametrically different, just like our opinions on the enjoyment of spending time in the bustle of a big city. And there are lots of other areas of difference, too.

My Papa regularly gave of himself, and still does so for his children and grandchildren today.

— John Kopinski

The point is that, learning the lesson of being your own man includes recognizing that you don't have to be your father. You can have unique traits and very different perspectives, but I learned a lot about love from my Papa and I try to make that a cornerstone of my life and fatherhood, too.

Michael Miklosovic

This is a simple question for me. I am a cradle Catholic in every possible way. I have known very little else since my birth so in a real sense EVERYTHING I learned from my Dad would be categorized

as being from a Catholic Dad.

It is safe to say that the gift my Dad had was his grounding in his faith. In a simple way, I learned that for life in general (and especially as a husband and father), if you do not have a firm and intimate relationship with Jesus, there is no peace, joy, or hope.

Life is full of chaos and challenges. I witnessed my Dad go through some very difficult things, and I saw him handle some with grace and some with great struggle. In high school, when we did not see eye-to-eye very often, my father was struggling with issues from his childhood and work. There was much conflict, but as it turned out much healing. He was facing what life gave him and purposefully working toward being whole and healed. It was hard. For all of us.

I don't think I realized until much later that this time in our lives held probably the most impactful lesson I will ever learn. He didn't teach it to me but lived it openly,

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—Michael Miklosovic

Michael Miklosovic and his dad, Mike.

Watching my dad pray was normative in my life growing up. It was not done in a pompous manner or with a false humility. It was done as a part of who my dad is, even to this day.
—Sam Murray

What I learned from my dad...

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transparently, and humbly: All things are possible with God, and He remains faithful even as He heals us through our struggles and forgives our mistakes.

I also realized later that both my parents spent time in prayer daily. This was something they tried to instill in us as we grew up, but I didn't understand how crucial it was to their daily lives. We were not to be just "Sunday Catholics." Being Catholic meant a purposeful pursuit of Christ everyday and in every circumstance. While I know my parents both tried to "teach" us that truth, the reality was brought home in looking back on how they LIVED their day-to-day lives.

As a father now, I try my best to talk to my children about a life of faith and encourage them to pursue Christ with a fervor unsurpassed by any other pursuit. I know that my words may not always sink in, so as I learned from my Dad, I live that pursuit openly, transparently, and with God's grace humbly. Perhaps Jesus will grant my children even just half the blessings He gave me through my Dad.

Sam Murray

Looking back over the years of growing up and to the present, I see the ways that I was influenced in my Catholic



Sam Murray and his dad, John

faith by my father, John Murray, Jr. Some of my earliest memories I have as a child are waking up early in the morning, probably at 5 or 5:30am, and going into our family room where I knew I would find my dad sitting in his armchair, engaged in his morning prayer. I can still picture him sitting with his Bible, a praise and worship record playing softly (most likely *Crossroads* or Jim Berlucchi), praying. The prayer that has stuck in my memory is that he would pray for each of us children by name; that we would grow in our faith and that if we were to marry, we would marry spouses of faith.

Watching my dad pray was normative in my life growing up. It was not done in a pompous manner or with a false humility. It was done as a part of who my dad is, even to this day. It did not, and does not, matter who was in the room

with him. I look back and hope to emulate that to my own sons. That prayer is a part of life, that it is something that, while we do it humbly, we do it boldly and consistently.

I learned from watching my dad not to be ashamed of being Catholic. That being a Catholic man is not something that you hide or separate out of your work or social life. And that being a man who is known to be Catholic, you are meant to act accordingly—again, not in an arrogant or self-righteous manner, but as a man who loves God and the Church, loves his family, and acts justly towards others. In this boldness of living out his faith, I have seen the joy of his faith come out in all types of situations. I pray that I too will pass on to my sons the joy of being Catholic.

As I reflect on all that I have learned from my dad and his faith, a lot was picked up just by watching him. Even when I wasn't purposely studying what he was doing, I was learning and absorbing what he was doing and saying. I strive to live my life like he has so that my sons too will see what being a Catholic is all about and want to imitate it as they grow older.

Barbara Morgan retires as DRE

How did you get involved with teaching the faith?

I had no intention of being a teacher. I started teaching the faith at age 14 on an Indian Reservation in Arizona when I was asked to do so by a Sister at my school. I agreed because it would look good on my high school transcript! I prepared 7 children for their First Communion; all we had were some holy cards and benches. The day that they made their First Communion, the Holy Spirit just came in and took me over. I knew this was God telling me that He wanted me to do this and I would *love* it.

My mother had been a Baptist and became Catholic when she was 19. She loved everything about the Faith, *and* she knew the Bible backwards and forwards. When I as a child was memorizing the answers to the questions in the *Baltimore Catechism*, my mother would show me where the answers were in the Bible. I learned from her that Scripture drove doctrine. Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and the truth of the Catholic Church were at my core.

When the Catholic Fellowship of the Word of God [which became Christ the King] started and we were going to have our first group of Confirma-

tion age children, I asked if I could teach the class. When I was later asked to be the first DRE, I was thrilled. I loved teaching the Faith.

You spent many years teaching at Franciscan University. How did that come about?

When my youngest child finished high school, I really wanted to study catechetics directly. I wanted to stay “in the trenches,” and I just loved Christ the King. So I spent four summers studying at the Notre Dame Catechetical Institute near Washington DC. I graduated in 1994 with a Master’s in Theology and a Certificate in Catechetics.

I initially took the classes to help teachers at CTK, but Dr.

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Ronda Chervin and others started saying, “You need to teach at the college level.” God just kept laying things out that I never thought about. Dr. Alan Schreck [then head of

the Theology Department at Franciscan University] finally convinced me to try it part-time. He even worked it out for me to work on my PhD while teaching.

I started teaching part-time at Franciscan in the Fall of 1994. Again, the unexpected happened: I *loved* teaching the students at Franciscan. So I



stayed there until I retired in 2005 and returned to Ann Arbor.

The Franciscan University website lists you as the “foundress” of their Catechetics Program.

Yes, I would be teaching classes during the day and writing the next semester’s classes at night. I wrote every single course in catechetics at Franciscan according to what I thought would work in the field.

Why did you come back to work at CTK after retiring from Franciscan?

I was very sick when I came back to Ann Arbor, but God healed me. I knew that CTK didn’t have a DRE, so I offered to come back as DRE.

What were your favorite parts about being DRE this time around?

At CTK, I was doing the thing that I always wanted to do: working in the trenches, helping families. I love hearing God and finding the right people to do things.

Barbara Morgan served as Christ the King’s first Director of Religious Education in the 1980s and early 1990s. After retiring from the faculty of Franciscan University of Steubenville and returning to Ann Arbor, she rejoined the staff as DRE in 2011.

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The Holy Spirit works in joy and power at the *Fire It Up! Retreat*

More than 240 adults and children came together Pentecost Weekend to experience a deeper and greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a life-changing way through the *Fire It Up! Retreat*. Dan and Caroline Dirkes led the retreat, which they have adapted from the Life in the Spirit Seminar in order to reach all ages.

The retreat opened Friday night with a time of food, fellowship, and games for the kids. There was much laughter as four parent-child teams competed in a series of *Minute To Win It* games, while the crowd cheered them on.

From there, the group split into separate tracks for preschoolers, 6-10 year-olds, and those ages 11 and up. There was also childcare for babies up to 23 months.

Saturday's activities included games, powerful talks, Eucharistic Adoration, healing prayer, and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day culminated with prayer for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit for everyone. The adult track first prayed for the Baptism in the Spirit in their small groups. Then the parents were invited to pray over their children

for the Baptism in the Spirit, with the assistance, if they chose, of prayer ministers.

The retreat closed with participants of all ages joining in a joyful time of praise and worship before the Blessed Sacrament. Many people testified to



The retreat opened Friday night with a meal, carnival games, and a bounce house for kids.

the Holy Spirit moving in their lives and the lives of their children in powerful ways that left them hungry for "More, Lord!" — TH

Many thanks to Dan and Caroline Dirkes who led the retreat, Alyse Paquin and Christy Whiting for their retreat photos, and all the volunteers whose work on so many aspects of the retreat made it all possible. May the Lord bless you abundantly!



Tissues were flying and laughter abounded as family teams competed in a series of *Minute To Win It* games on Friday night.

The Holy Spirit works at the *Fire It Up! Retreat*



Dan Dirkes and his wife Caroline led the sessions for those ages 11 and up. They spoke about the love of God and the need for true repentance in preparation for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. They also led a time of healing prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

“Our oldest is 7 and beginning to be more spiritually aware. We’ve been looking for ways to help our children be more familiar with the Holy Spirit at their own young ages while also growing as adults ourselves. This retreat was perfect for that. We and our kids were able to grow in our relationship with the Holy Spirit in ways that were meaningful to us. Also, we very much appreciated the opportunities to connect with the parish community through the carnival fun and games on Friday and the community meal times throughout the retreat.”

“Amid the great joy that I experienced along with my family at the Fire it Up! Retreat, I felt a sorrow for my sins and an incredible need and desire to go to Confession while praying. When I saw that Father Bill was available, I went in haste to Confession. Clearly my sin is a clear testimony of my need for Mercy, Jesus, and the Eucharist. Thank you, Oh God, for giving us Your Church and our parish community where we can meet the Holy Spirit alive. Jesus Christ is truly risen from the dead.”



After the adults prayed for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit in their small groups, parents then prayed over their children, with the assistance, if desired, of prayer ministry team members.



The day ended with a joyful time of praise and worship, before the Blessed Sacrament as participants of all ages thanked Jesus for lavishing His Holy Spirit on them at this retreat!

“Caroline and Dan made the New Life they spoke of more than a concept to explain but a very real experience for all to enjoy. What a Breath of fresh air! What a welcome sign of the New Springtime we have been hearing about for years!”

We've heard that many either don't understand the need for change or have not experienced a sense of "belonging" in the parish—being known, valued, and loved. That breaks our hearts, and as the Senior Leadership Team we repent for all the ways that we, as leaders and fellow parishioners, have not loved, supported, or listened to you.



Bill Pressprich is Chair of Christ the King's Parish Advisory Council and a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The Vision Statement of Christ the King

If we are faithful to our mission, then we trust that the Lord will make our vision a reality

Imagine a church like this one:

We are a vibrant Catholic community, grounded in Scripture and the Sacraments, where all experience belonging. We live as radical, Spirit-filled disciples who share the love of Jesus.

This describes a joyful group of Christians growing in holiness, on fire for the mission. Reaching out as Jesus did to the lost and the needy. A place where everyone is known, valued, and loved. All together, are part of something much bigger than themselves only, with a true sense of purpose – walking in the vineyard with God as He builds His Kingdom. Alive in the Holy Spirit!

Now imagine that this vision statement describes Christ the King in 2023, just five years from now. Yes, through grace, we can make this a reality. How exciting! It brings hope to me, even in the midst of my struggles with society and in my personal life.

Through prayer, the Lord led our Parish Advisory Council, with Fr. Ed and the Senior Leadership Team, to develop our vision statement. It goes along well with our mission statement:

We exist to joyfully worship God and carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

If we are faithful to our mission, then we trust that the Lord will make our vision a reality.

The most frequent response to our mission statement that we have received from parishioners is one of hope. Yet we've also heard that many either don't understand the need for change or have not experienced a sense of "belonging" in the parish – being known, valued, and loved. That breaks our hearts, and as the Senior

Leadership Team we repent for all the ways that we, as leaders and fellow parishioners, have not loved, supported, or listened to you and others in the parish. That was not our intent.

As we have shifted some of our resources towards reaching those outside of our parish, perhaps some of us are feeling like the older brother in the story of the Prodigal Son. Let's take a look at the words of the

father. "My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'" (Luke 15:31-32)

The older son saw himself as a slave. The father affirmed him as a son and an heir to everything he has. That is the older son's true identity. We, like the older brother, can

The older son saw himself as a slave. The father affirmed him as a son and an heir to everything he has. That is the older son's true identity.

sometimes forget who we are as adopted sons of the Father through Jesus Christ. You and I are known, valued, and loved! That is true now and will never change. We should love and encourage each other always, recognizing the infinite love and value God places on each one of us as His sons and daughters.

Yet, as the older son recognizes in the parable, something has changed in our life as a parish. We are responding to the

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Staff Profile

Susan Perrier

Please give us a little of your background in religious education.

Following my undergraduate degree in Ethnic Studies at Bowling Green State University, I earned an MA in Educational Ministries at Wheaton College. That degree focused on the educational principles needed to do ministry more effectively.

It was a professor at Wheaton who, knowing that I was Catholic, said that I should visit Franciscan University. I liked it so much there that I ended up enrolling in the MA in Theology program. As part of my studies, I had the privilege of taking two catechetics courses with Barbara Morgan.

Here at Christ the King, I have served as a catechist for 8 years. I've worked primarily with first graders. I've also served as a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Level 1 aide and catechist.

What are you most looking forward to about your new position?

I'm very excited to serve the kids of our parish. It's so beautiful to see the Lord work in them! I especially love to see how Baptismal grace flowers when children encounter the Lord through the Scripture and materials in CGS. A person of any age can be moved by the Lord in profound ways.

I'm also looking forward to serving our amazingly gifted and talented faith formation volunteers: learning from them, assisting them, encouraging

them, and being a more integral part of the important work that they do. At the end of the day, it's people that matter.

What challenges do you see ahead?

As families come into our parish through Alpha, we're going to see a wider range of needs. We need to think and pray about what we can do to adapt our programs to meet people where they are at and

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give them the proper spiritual food that they need.

How do you see the Youth Discipleship program at the parish, and your role in particular, supporting and complementing the parents' roles as the primary catechists of their children?

Parents are the primary catechists, but they don't exist alone. They are part of neighborhoods, communities, and their parish. That is the way God designed life to be—that we would have to lean into each other, learn from each other, worship together, and serve one another.



Susan Perrier recently became our new Assistant Director for Youth Discipleship, responsible for overseeing the Religious Education programs through 6th grade. She and her family—husband Kevin and children Joseph, Anna, and Maria—have been members of the parish for 18 years.

Our families that are already quite strong in their faith lives can be models for others. We, as the Youth Discipleship Team at Christ the King, can encourage them, help them see and use their gifts, and be a further resource for them.

For families who are very new to a relationship with the Lord, we can get them started on the road to discipleship and faith formation. There should, ideally, be a place for everyone to be inserted into this community of learning, growing, and serving.

If there was one thing that people could take away from this interview, what would you want it to be?

I want people to know that the Sacred Heart of Jesus loves us to the end, and that He gives Himself completely to us, especially in the Mass. My goal is to help that reality become more real for our children and families. Don't be afraid to let Him love you and to help you in that same way.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus loves us to the end and He gives Himself completely to us, especially in the Mass. My goal is to help that reality become more real for our children and families.

If you give God the chance, He will have quite a bit that He wants to say about your life and how to live it. So be sure to get baptized in the Spirit! You have to hear the Holy Spirit, you have to know what He's saying to you. ... Then from that point, be ready for the ride!

Barbara Morgan retires as DRE

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I teach people to teach for *conversion*. There is not a catechist at CTK who doesn't think like that. The thing about CTK that is so extraordinary is, God has given us so many extraordinary people. I have worked with many parishes and dioceses, so I know it's true. And He is going to count us responsible [for what He has given us].

The folks who have as their *apostolic* vocation that they are catechists have to be trained to do that. The book that the Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist and I have been working on was possible in part due to the training that I gave to the catechists here at Christ the King. It was those talks that made it possible to put that book in the format that it is in.¹

As you retire a second time, what do you plan to do with your time?

I'm helping the Sisters of Mary put together a new Catholic school textbook series for grades 1-8. Sr. John Dominic, who was one of my students at Franciscan and is now the Director of Evangelization and Catechetics for the Sisters of Mary, has some other projects that she may have for me.

Is there anything else that you would like the readers of this interview to know?

The Lord started with me early. My mother taught me how to have a relationship with Jesus and a great love for Scripture. And I couldn't have done any of

this without my husband Gary.

If you give God the chance, He will have quite a bit that He wants to say about your life and how to live it. So be sure to get baptized in the Spirit! You have to hear the Holy Spirit, you have to know what He's saying to you. You can't do this without hearing what He has to say. Then from that point, be ready for the ride!

We plan to celebrate Barbara's retirement sometime this fall when more people are available. Stay tuned for details!

¹ Barbara's new book, *Echoing the Mystery: Unlocking the Deposit of Faith in Catechetics*, is due to come out this fall. The recordings of the talks that she has been giving to the catechists are available on our audio website, ctkcc.libsyn.com. Under the Episodes menu, select Categories, then Catechist Training.

The Vision Statement of Christ the King

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prompting of the Holy Spirit to become more missional, more outward focused. Pope Francis dreams of "a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedule, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, Section 27). Our

parish is becoming more intentional about equipping the saints to become missionary disciples. As the Lord works through us to reach the lost through Alpha and other missionary efforts, we have begun to see our friends and family members finding the Lord. As they do, we celebrate what God celebrates – rejoicing when even one lost sheep is found.

As we focus on our mission, I'm filled with gratitude for each of you and for

where the Lord has already led Christ the King. I hope you experience these as exciting times for our parish. Soon, you will learn more about our vision and have the chance to comment on our "Game Plan." This is a bold plan for helping people to encounter Christ and grow as disciples. We love you and want to thank you for your love for God and each other! We are so glad you are on the journey with us to build God's kingdom. May God bless you!—*Bill Pressprich*

Schedule of Major Events

- 7/4: Independence Day; Parish Office closed
- 7/13, 27: Upper Room
- 7/13-15: Steubenville High School Youth Conference
- 7/17, 24, 31: Alpha Team Training
- 7/25: Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist Profession Mass, Final Vows
- 7/27: Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist Profession Mass, First Vows

For more information about these and other events, check the bulletin or go to www.ckcc.net.

MAJOR EVENTS—JULY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Aug. 1	2	3	4

Save the Dates!

“Belonging Explained: The Vision & Game Plan for Christ the King”

Saturday, Aug. 11, 9am-1pm
All parishioners are invited to come for Mass, refreshments, and the opportunity to learn more about the vision and plan for the parish in the coming year. Come with your questions! For more information, contact John Hoving, jhoving@ckcc.net, or Aimée Godfrey, agodfrey@ckcc.net.



Alpha Team Training

Three options:
— Tuesdays, July, 17, 24, 31, 7-9pm; or
— Saturday, Aug. 18, 10am-3pm; or
— Saturday, Sept. 8, 10am-3pm

Go to www.ckcc.net/alpha for more information and to sign up. Contact Pete at alpha@ckcc.net for more information.



2018 Diocesan Assembly, “Made for Happiness”

Saturday, Sept. 22, Lansing
Make plans now for your whole family to attend the largest gathering of Catholics in the history of the Diocese of Lansing! For details, go to madeforhappiness.org.



Check future bulletins for more details about these great events!



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Nuala Holowicki
Betty Meredith
Don Mierendorf
Katie Perrotta
Greg Stout
Colleen Vermeulen

Coming in future issues...

- The "Game Plan"
- Alpha testimonies
- Parishioner and ministry profiles

Look for this and more in future issues of

The Open Door

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We welcome your comments. Please send them to Theresa Hofer at thofer@ckcc.net.

The Open Door is the monthly newsletter of Christ the King Catholic Church.

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