Fully Alive as Missionary Disciples

In the month of October we announced the 2019 Stewardship Renewal Theme: Fully Alive as Missionary Disciples. This year’s stewardship theme closely connects Pope Francis’ pastoral plan for the universal Catholic Church, Bishop Kemme’s pastoral plan which was just announced for the Diocese of Wichita and my pastoral vision here at Church of the Holy Cross.

Pope Francis’ pastoral plan for the Catholic Church is laid out in his Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium. The document is dedicated to the New Evangelization and its implementation into the life of the Church. The term “New Evangelization” was introduced by St. John Paul II, furthered by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and continues with the pontificate of Pope Francis. St. John Paul II wrote that the New Evangelization is not new in content. In other words, it is always about Jesus. It is always about how God so loved the world... (John 3:16).

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Bishop Carl Kemme’s recently announced Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Wichita uses the term “fully alive” to capture what is new about the New Evangelization. The Bishop wrote that the inspiration for “fully alive” comes from John 10:10, “I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” The Bishop’s pastoral plan is directing some reorganization of the chancery along with pastoral priorities for each parish. His vision is “that all God’s children will respond to Christ’s call to become fully alive as missionary disciples.” A missionary disciple is not someone who goes overseas to announce Jesus to people who have never heard of Jesus. His use of missionary disciple means a disciple who makes disciples.

During the past year and a half as pastor of the Church of the Holy Cross, I have spoken repeatedly on how my role as Pastor is, “to love Jesus so much that it is contagious”. We have to dig deep within ourselves and let God bring out the inner joy of being His disciples. If we desire our faith to truly lead us through this world, then we have to let God take over and set us on fire for our faith. We have to shift from living a merely duty-driven stewardship way of life to living a passion-driven stewardship way of life. When we move away from self-dependence and move towards total-dependence on God, then He can show us what it means to live as a Disciple of Jesus Christ.

Spend some time in these upcoming weeks and prayerfully reflect on how God is at work in your life. If we are able to grasp and hold onto that truth, then everything else flows from there. When we see God alive and at work in us, then we will have no choice but to want to live a life dedicated to Him, bringing as many people closer to Him as possible. Then we will truly be “Fully Alive as Missionary Disciples”.

May God bless and reward you for your continued generosity! You are all remembered in my daily prayers!

God bless you all!
Fr. Aaron

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**Baptisms**

Clayton Thomas Ketchum—Dustin & Jamie Ketchum
Olivia Ann Martin - Jesse & Alisha Martin
Gemma Grace Pauly - Scott & Caitlin Pauly
Lewis Scott Stroberg - Scott & Gretchen Stroberg
Welcome the following new church members to our parish family:

- Dale Matthew Blank
- D. J. & Kellie Chastain & Bentyn
- Gabriel & Gabriella Bergmann
- Clayton & Abigail Burkholder & Brody
- Kathy & Dago Burrola & Milli, Ares
- Jeff & Tonya Deal - Pipen
- Ricky & Lacy Dowers & Alba, Ivy
- Dana Ediger & Jude, Noah
- Nathan & Anne Elpers
- Kristy Flowers
- Megan Jaques & Francisco Gutierrez - Elijah & Benjamin
- Erica & Erica Haskins & Addison
- Pam Hilbert & Ethan, Everett, Emery
- Zach Kelsey
- Patrick & Bethany Mazur
- Mario Mendoza & Angelica Hernandez & Damian
- Jerry Meyer & Enda Seebly-Meyer & Cherokee, Lakota
- Justin & Rose Mies & Noa, Moses, Mary, Christa
- Evan & Melissa Moodie & Alison & Isaac
- Scott Morris
- Alvin J. Rohr
- Brad & Jolie Rayl
- Heather Segenhagen & Liam, Lane
- Eric Case & Stefani Thornton & Rayne, TJ
- Eric & Gabriela Vega - Mia, Eric & Iris
- Jules & Kindra Whiteman & Oliver, Olivia

Remember Those Who Have Passed

- Shelley Buch
- Adam Dreiszinger
- Jack D. Emel
- Loretta Forshee
- Edna Kreutzer
- Darrell Erhlich
- Charles Green
- Nick Lobmeyer, Jr.
- Don Schinstock
- Louise Smith
- Tony Vecchiarelli
- Alice Wasinger

The following were united in the Sacrament Of Matrimony

- Ross Addison & Alayna Bergkamp
- Derek Racette & Connor Reh
Date: December 2nd thru December 16th

Prison Fellowship is a wonderful way of giving and helping to bring the Christmas Spirit not only to the child that receives the gift but to the father or mother who is incarcerated and the caregiver of that child. In the purchase of the one gift you have touched the hearts of three strangers, your own and those who see this wonderful act of kindness. Let me take this time to say “Thank you and may God Bless you this Christmas season.”

How does this work? Each year I put a request in that Holy Cross Church will take the responsibility of purchasing a gift for 25 children who are living in the Hutchinson area. When I receive the names I call the caregiver asking what items the child would like to receive this Christmas. Every time I speak to the caregiver they are grateful; this gift lets the children know their mom or dad is thinking about them during the holidays. So please look at the tag and see if that’s the gift you would like to purchase before taking it off the tree. If the item is clothing there will be sizes marked on them. Please enclosed a gift receipt with your gift, especially if its clothing, in case it doesn’t fit right. The gift doesn’t need wrapped but I do need the whole angel tag with it.

Please have the gift under the Angel Tree no later than Sunday, Dec. 16th after the eleven o’clock Mass. This gives me sufficient time to make sure all gifts are purchased and schedule a time to get the gifts to the children. I believe this is our 20th year of Prison Fellowship Angel Tree at Holy Cross. If you have any questions please feel free to call me, Shelli Ridder, at 620-200-8536.

Thank you for your support.
More than 30 Knights, parents, kids and some faculty members moved the mulch from the Holy Cross school parking lot to the playground equipment areas.

**Birthright** could use your help. We are currently low on Maternity Clothes of all sizes (Shirts and pants). If you have some gently used maternity clothes and would like to donate them to Birthright, we would truly appreciate it. If you have any questions please call Birthright at 620-200-8536. Thank you for supporting Birthright.
Thanks to everyone who came out to support our school at the Dinner Dance on November 3rd! A special thank you to Katie Kurzenhauser, Kirsten Paulsrud, and all the parents who planned, decorated, donated, cleaned up, sold raffle tickets, and volunteered time at the event! We are still working to collect payments and make sure all the bills are paid, so stay tuned for our fundraising total! We will use the proceeds from this event to make necessary repairs and updates to our security in the school!

We also appreciate all of our corporate sponsors! We couldn’t do what we do without all of you! In addition to being a great fundraiser, it was also a great opportunity for us to build relationships in our Hutchinson Catholic community!

Also, we want to thank each of our parishioners who joined us! We are proud of our school and love when you are a part of our activities! All parishioners are welcome to visit us any time. Stop in for lunch, read with a student or help with an event! Just give us a call!

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND PRAYER GARDEN

We are so excited that we also had a tremendous support for our outdoor classroom and prayer garden during our dinner dance as well! This space will allow us to hold Science and other classes outside as well as provide an outdoor prayer space for individual or groups. We want to thank all who donated and give a special thanks to Tom Heintzman for his labor and donations to this wonderful project for our school and parish! Watch the north end of the building for progress this winter! We hope to use it this spring!
CHESS CLUB
Thirteen members of our chess club competed at the Canton Galva tournament on November 3rd. Holy Cross brought home team trophies for second and third place in the K-5 division. The following students also received individual honors:

**K-3 Division**: 2nd place David Cash
**K-5 Division**: 5th Jake Kerns, 7th John Lindstrom, 8th Blayne Baldetti, 10th Gage Schroeder, 11th Bryan Maya, 12th Eli Bigger, 13th Tyler Casebolt, 14th Richard Harbold, 16th Jacob Lindstrom
**K-8 Division**: 10th Michael Glenn

HONOR CHOIR
We were very proud of our Honor Choir who performed the National Anthem at the Wichita Thunder Hockey game on November 7th. Our students represented us well in song and we were proud of their respectful behavior as well!
This is our 3rd year of College Ministry at Holy Cross and we started off with 6-10 students the beginning of the school year. We ask that you continue to pray for this ministry. I would like to thank those who have donated food or money to help with the purchase of the meal.

Parents and grandparents when your student comes home for the holidays tell them about college ministry and encourage them to seek it out at their campus. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Theology on Tap will start again on Monday, Jan. 28th the speaker will be Fr. Michael Kerschen.

Feel free to follow Holy Cross Catholic school on social media to see all the great things happening because of our parishioners!

Facebook: @hccshutch
Twitter: @catholic_cross
Instagram: catholic_holycross

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