



Frassati Group Guidelines

ed. June 2022

- I. Introduction
- II. Mission and Values
- III. Membership
- IV. Organizational Structure
- V. Meetings
- VI. Conduct

I. Introduction

Until the spring of 2020, Christ the King did not have a dedicated outreach for young adults: pastor Msgr. Cihak tasked Fr. Randy Hoang, resident seminarian intern at the time, with creating this outreach and leading its meetings as part of his pastoral learning experience. This was the beginning of the “Frassati” group, under the patronage of Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati.

The small size and informal structure of the group meant that its character and manner of operation shifted considerably with its leadership, from Fr. Hoang, to his successor Dcn. Dustin Busse, and thirdly, to seminarian intern Chi-Nhan Vo. Passing a certain threshold of size, consistency, and commitment among membership in the course of this third year has suggested it prudent to finally codify guidelines for the Frassati group in one document.

It is hoped that this document will prove useful in a number of ways: in welcoming new members, in providing for a common vision and basic guidelines of conduct for existing members, in giving the group a certain level of stability as members and seminarian interns come and go, and in providing a foundation for those successive interns in an orderly way. It is also hoped that such codification only safeguards the spirit of Christian fraternity that the group enjoys, rather than discouraging it. However, it should be understood that any and all guidelines are ultimately subject to replacement or modification at the prudent discretion of the pastor or the seminarian intern.

II. Mission and Values

We are Christ the King Catholic Church, centered in Christ and animated by the Holy Spirit to build God's kingdom through divine worship, prayer, evangelization, Catholic education, and the works of mercy.

Mission Statement of Christ the King Catholic Church

Devotion to Christ in the Eucharist. Evangelization through Authentic Friendship. Love of the Outdoors. Concern for the Poor.

“Four Pillars” of Bl. Frassati’s Spirituality, as codified by Frassati Fellowship of NYC

We are Frassati at Christ the King, a group dedicated to forming young adults in the life and mission of the local Church through authentic friendship rooted in Christian charity. We place a particular emphasis on spiritual, catechetical, and missionary formation that begins in and completes this same charity.

Our core values and Bl. Frassati’s guide this formation, expressions of charitable devotion

- To Christ in the Eucharist, safeguarded by the fullness of the Catholic faith
- To Christ in our authentic friendships, by which we evangelize each other
- To Christ in our neighbor, by serving the local Church and in concern for the poor

III. Membership

That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.

From the First Letter of St. John

General Frassati membership is open to Catholics from 18-30 years of age, though the pastor reserves the right to admit parishioners based on their pastoral needs. There are no monetary dues; while some activities will require money, it should never be an issue, and proper financial stewardship will cover any such need. Meetings are open to guests, but we would ask regular attendees to be confirmed or Catholic catechumens.

IV. Organizational Structure

You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet . . . No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends.

From the Gospel of St. John

As part of Christ the King parish, the Frassati group is always shepherded ultimately by her pastor. However, the seminarian intern finds opportunity to exercise a proper degree of pastoral ministry - which is inseparable from spiritual, human, and teaching leadership - in the Frassati group. Therefore, he is delegated the group's leadership in general, while he consults the pastor on large decisions and generally keeps him informed.

In addition to the exercise of fatherhood that pastoral ministry always requires, particular leadership duties of the intern include scheduling, planning, publicizing, and generally running meetings. However, as Christ sends His apostles, so should the intern delegate whenever he deems prudent: not only does he learn good pastoral practice, but in doing so he encourages the growth of members as faithful adults and leaders in their own right, which indeed is the mission of the Frassati group.

One particular role that requires delegation is that of accounting, for various activities, programs, and charitable works may require money to be collected. Best stewardship practice demands that different people keep and execute funds, and therefore a Frassati member should be designated as treasurer besides the intern. This is especially helpful due to young adults' general preference for electronic peer-to-peer transactions.

Generally speaking, the intern's departure from the parish in the summer coincides with the pastor's increased availability. Therefore, the pastor may minister more directly in the summer months by his presence. However, he and the outgoing intern together designate members to assume day-to-day leadership responsibilities for that same time, with the understanding that they will help to transition the incoming intern into his proper role when he does arrive.

V. Meetings

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers . . . And they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need . . . Attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people.

From the Acts of the Apostles

Standard meetings are held in the parish office on Sundays after Holy Mass at 11:00 a.m., and therefore begin around 12:30 PM and last for one hour with lunch following. Scheduling depends on the availability of the seminarian intern and Frassati members, but meetings are generally held every week. Beyond these Sunday meetings, other opportunities may arise in connection with other groups within the parish, or even with other parishes around the city. Members with such connections should feel encouraged to share them.

Meeting content varies, but it is helpful to organize meetings into four categories: catechetical, spiritual, service, and fraternity. Equal attention should be paid to these areas in the course of the group's life. Service projects will naturally require additional time and foresight to plan and execute. Presenters should be encouraged and prepared from within the group's membership, but outside guest presenters may also provide valuable formation.

VI. Conduct

We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way . . . by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God.

From the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Every one of you knows that the foundation of our religion is charity. Without it, all our religion would crumble, because we would not really be Catholics as long as we did not carry out or rather shape our whole lives by the two commandments in which the essence of the Catholic faith lies: to love God with all our strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

From a 1925 Address of Bl. Frassati to the Federation of Italian Catholic University Students

Bl. Frassati's vision of "evangelization through authentic friendship" was beautiful in its simplicity. Building up the Body of Christ to full stature (cf. Eph 4:13) is no more or less complicated than friendship of the sort marked by Christian charity. Friendships, in turn, demand a level of freedom to form naturally. Yet it must be remembered that this Frassati group is not *simply* a group of Christian friends, but is firstly the official young adult arm of Christ the King

Parish. Therefore, some basic standards of conduct are codified below, to which members can hold each other accountable, and by which scandal is prevented.

- All forms of verbal injury are to be avoided: reviling, gossip, backbiting, tale-bearing, and derision.
 - Extra care should be taken that teasing remain good-natured and does not cross into derision.
 - Profane language is to be avoided.
 - This standard is doubly true on the GroupMe chat, which represents Christ the King Parish no less so virtually than Sunday meetings do physically. All posts, including memes, are subject to review or removal.
- Exclusivity is to be avoided.
 - Friendships will naturally form more easily between some members - even romantic relationships - but members should never be prevented from engaging with the larger group.
 - Indeed, members should make every effort to watch out for and draw in those members on the margins.
- Tobacco and alcohol are not permitted during meetings.
- Sexual harassment is not to be tolerated. Members' individual comfort with personal space, both physical and emotional, must be respected.
- Fraternal correction, offered in charity, is to be welcomed in the same charity.