

First Holy Communion

by Caitlin Zeal

September 26th was a joyous day for many of our Christ the King families as our students were finally able to receive their First Holy Communion. Students in second grade and a few others from the school had been studying and working hard throughout the year to be ready to receive the Blessed Sacrament for the first time. At the beginning of March, with only a couple of months



left and plans starting to be finalized for their special day, we were unexpectedly sent home to quarantine. We all had to wait and see what would happen

and when our students would be able to receive their First Holy Communion.

Our weekly worship at church became worship from home, via recorded Masses due to COVID-19. Mrs. Stevens, reflecting back about the spring, said that it was sad to be distance learning with the students and watch the days



get closer and closer to what should have been the date for their First Communion. Students too, were sad not knowing when they would be able to receive and celebrate their First Communion. This left everyone with many questions and not many answers.



When we returned to school in August our second-grade teacher, Mrs. Stevens, was hard

at work getting everything ready for our students to finally be able to receive the sacrament. When the kids returned to Christ the King, now as third graders, plans were already in place for their big day. Mrs. Valot's third graders were very excited, talking daily about their upcoming sacrament. "When the week arrived there were so many emotions in our classroom! When we attended our



last Mass, before the students received the Body of Christ, they each told me about the excitement and nervousness they were experiencing," recalls Mrs. Valot.

First Holy Communion for our students may not have looked like or been the same, but the most important part was the same. Our students received the Body of Christ for the first time.

There were many changes this year due to restrictions from the pandemic, but one of the changes that seems to have been a special touching change, was that parents



walked their child up to the altar to receive their First Communion. "I loved that we were able to go up with our child so that we could see them receive Jesus for the first time..." shared Laura Meehan. It was a

special moment for parents to be able to share this experience with their child. Mrs. Valot described the moment as being "pure and beautiful."



Blessing of a Cowboy Hat for a Friend!

by Bernie Klepac

Sometimes you wish you could have been there! I received the following string of texts and photos from Alex



“Father Puga blessing a cowboy hat for a special friend.”



“Surprise!!!!

He’s the Special Friend!!

He was speechless, yes,

“It was funny when Fr. Puga was blessing the hat he said, ‘Maybe I should be blessing the head it sits on.’ He had no clue it was his head that was getting

“Aw, he is awesome! Just like he said at Mass, ‘To be awesome is a great responsibility.’”



Together Again!

by Jeannie W

No one expected to be quarantined, to be masked, or to be isolated from life as we knew it. No one expected life to change. We never do!

We are beginning to return to normal, but not the normal we left in March.

Many students and teachers are back in brick and mortar schools but, it doesn’t look the same nor does it feel the same. However, the return has brought with it a new appreciation and gratefulness while the circumstances are opening the windows for a new perspective and much creativity.

As I write this article it is homecoming week, but the masks and social distancing have not quelled the laughter, the excitement, nor the thematic days!

Life Chain - 61 Million Missing Americans

by Nick Klepac

Today is Sunday, October 4, 2020. By all standards, it is a typical day in Jacksonville, nice and sunny.

My wife BerNiece (Bernie) and I went to the 7:00 a.m. Mass at Christ the King. After Mass, we ate breakfast, and then joined others for a life-chain demonstration on Atlantic Boulevard. It started to rain and it rained for the entire time we stood on the sidewalk - a full 90 minutes.



We held signs celebrating life and protesting abortion. Not the abortion the left paints as a woman's reproductive right, but the abortion that murders, mutilates and destroys a baby's life, forever!

A woman's RIGHT? Women and men have the right NOT to have sex. They have the choice of being

smart, grown-up adults. But no, they choose to do what they want, like frolicking animals, with not a care in the world, and then blame the baby for their ignorance and stupidity. Don't even fall for their comments about rape or incest. Rape and incest only account for 0.5% of all abortions. All other abortions, 99.5%, are not required. In fact, even the babies from rape or incest are not at fault and should be allowed to live. We pray for the protection of all life; before and after birth, the handicapped - mentally or physically challenged, and the elderly.



Since abortion became legal in the United States 61,000,000 babies have been murdered (**that is the entire population of Italy!**) They say the embryo is a glob, just tissue. Funny that the heart beats about 22 days after conception. **Did you know that ultrasound shows babies trying to run away from a scalpel or suction tube when abortions are performed?** How many times must we hear their

silent screams before we stop this madness? But it is the law? So was slavery, and times when women couldn't

vote. Catholics, in early America, weren't allowed to hold office or even apply for jobs. Laws can be changed. I have to wonder how many folks know that euthanasia (right to die/killing of the elderly) is legal in California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and Washington D.C.

worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/right-to-die-states

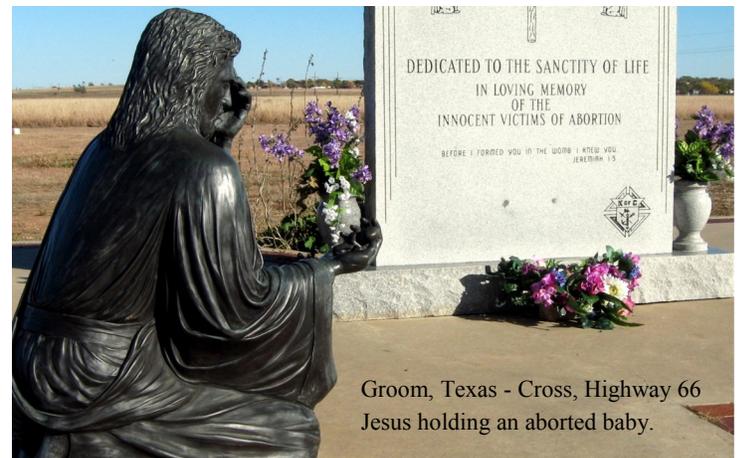
So here we are, in the rain with Father Boddie, Father Cowart, our nuns, and about 25 parishioners, standing for life. We aren't the only ones. Looking up and down Atlantic Blvd. there are a lot of folks, from different churches, Catholic and not, young in strollers, old in walkers, and everything in between, all praying, all witnessing that life from conception until natural death, is important and precious.



Life Chain started with churches in Yuba City, California, in 1987, its importance was seen and thus the movement spread. It is traditionally scheduled for the first Sunday of October from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Because of COVID-19 some cities have scheduled November 1.

This Jacksonville Life Chain reaches from Monument Road to St. Johns Bluff. Only in Jacksonville? No! In 2020 there are Life Chains scheduled on October 4 or November 1 in over 2,000 cities across the United States and Canada. Check out their website lifechain.org/history/

The falling rain reminds me of God's tears.



Groom, Texas - Cross, Highway 66
Jesus holding an aborted baby.



Girls Rule!

by E. Brian Smith, Jr.

Christ the King's Scouts BSA Troop 5 launched its first girls troop last year and we are looking for some new recruits! So far, we have signed up 4 girls and would like to grow the girls troop to 12 or more. If your daughter or granddaughter loves outdoor activities and would like to be among the first group of girls to work towards the prestigious Eagle Scout rank, then please let us know. During our first year, we have



participated in nature hikes, archery, rifle, pottery, and, of course, campouts. Nothing beats relaxing by the campfire after a great day of fun activities and sleeping under the stars in your tent or hammock.



In Troop 5 we always encourage the scouts to try new things and take advantage of the high adventure outdoor trips we offer. The famed author, H. Jackson Brown, Jr., wrote in his 1990 book *P.S. I Love You*:

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”



Troop 5 has lived by the above quote since its founding and will continue to reference it when we hike the Appalachian Trail next summer.

If your son or daughter has completed the fifth grade or is age 11 or older, then they are eligible to participate in Scouts BSA Troop 5. Come out and “Explore. Dream. Discover.” with Troop 5. The girls troop meets every Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Christ the King Scout Hut located next to the Vietnamese Center. And the boys troop meets on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the Scout Hut.



Please note that we are being cautious during the pandemic so masks and social distancing are required. Contact Scoutmaster Brian Smith at 904-333-8865 for more information about the girls troop or Scoutmaster Chris Smith at 904-629-5437 if you'd like to learn more about the boys troop.

Yard Sale for Youth Ministry

by Jill Alderfer, Director of Youth Ministry

On October 17 and 18, our community came together in support of the Youth Ministry at our Yard Sale for Youth Ministry in the Parish Hall. Youth and adult volunteers helped to prepare and display a wide variety of items, including furniture, home décor, clothing, books, kitchen tools, movies and more, all generously donated by parishioners.

Many people came out from the community during the two-day event, making it a fun and busy weekend. This was a general fundraiser for the Youth Ministry, seeking to support several upcoming events, including the Diocesan High School Youth Conference (DYC), monthly Middle School Ministry events, Plunge and MPact service retreats, the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), and World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon and Fatima.

Thank you to all those who participated, donated, and volunteered! It was a great success, and we look forward to bringing it back next year!



(L to R), Zach, Matthew, Gabe, Ethan, Jill, and Emmy in the front