



ST. GABRIEL

THE ARCHANGEL ♦ CATHOLIC CHURCH

FR. FRANK QUEZADA REFLECTS ON HIS FIRST EIGHT MONTHS IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Excited to Begin the Next Chapter of Our Shared Faith Journey

Having been here at St. Gabriel the Archangel for about eight months, Fr. Frank Quezada says his greatest takeaway has been the people. From parishioners in the pews to the students, faculty, and families that comprise the school, he has been met with genuine warmth and encouragement. Fr. Quezada is deeply grateful to everyone who has welcomed him with open arms and helped make St. Gabriel feel like home as he begins this new chapter.

“St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish and Classical Academy are a gift to the diocese,” he says. “They have a tremendous amount of potential. As a new pastor, eight months in, I have been trying to assess, evaluate, and reflect on what we have, what we don’t have, and what we need. But I believe this must be dominated by God’s Spirit, not mine. That involves discernment.”

Fr. Quezada has been a priest for nearly 40 years, yet he readily acknowledges that beginning at a new parish can still be challenging. He



understands there is uncertainty on both sides. From the moment he arrived, he made it a priority to listen, and he hopes parishioners know he is always willing and eager to do just that.

“I heard a kind of silent message through body language — that people were happy I was speaking

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PRACTICING STEWARDSHIP AT HOME:

Nurturing Faith in the Domestic Church

In the Catholic tradition, the concept of Stewardship goes beyond attending Mass and making donations to the church; it encompasses a way of life deeply rooted in sharing our time, talent, and treasure for the greater good. This way of life is not confined to the church walls, but extends to our homes, where we cultivate the values of stewardship within our families. As parents, it is our sacred duty to instill these values in our children and foster a culture of giving, service, and faith within the Domestic Church.

Sharing Time

The first element of stewardship, sharing time, is a valuable lesson to teach children. Set aside regular family time for prayer, reflection, and discussing the needs of your local community. Engage in volunteer activities together, whether it's serving meals at a soup kitchen, participating in church events, or helping a neighbor in need. These experiences will show your children the importance of dedicating time to helping others and connecting with their faith.

Sharing Talent

Encourage your children to discover and develop their talents, and then guide them in using these talents for the benefit of others. It could be as simple as teaching them how to play a musical instrument, create art, or even cook. In sharing their talents, children will learn the joy of giving, and they will find purpose in using their skills to make a difference in the world. Emphasize the idea that everyone has something unique to offer, and it is through these talents that they can help build a better world.

Sharing Treasure

Stewardship also involves sharing one's financial resources. Involve your children in the family's budgeting and financial discussions to help them understand the importance of responsible money management. Teach them to set aside a portion of their allowance or earnings for charitable giving. Encourage them to support church programs, charities, and those in need. When children learn to give generously from a young age, it becomes a lifelong practice of sharing their treasure with those who need it most.

Teaching by Example

The most powerful way to instill the principles of stewardship in your children is to lead by example. Be open about your own acts of giving and service. Let your children witness your involvement in church activities, your support of charitable organizations, and your dedication to helping others. When they see your commitment to stewardship, they are more likely to embrace it as a way of life in their own journey of faith.

Embracing Stewardship in the Domestic Church

Stewardship is not limited to our interactions with the parish or the wider community; it is a way of life within the Domestic Church — our family. As parents, we have the opportunity and responsibility to shape our children's understanding of faith, generosity, and service. By sharing time, talent, and treasure within our homes, we create an environment where stewardship is not just a practice, but a fundamental aspect of our Catholic identity. Through this, we pass on the richness of our faith to the next generation, ensuring that they continue to be the stewards of God's gifts for years to come.



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

EASTER HOPE IN OUR LOCAL CHURCH

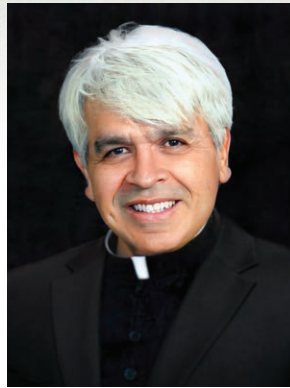
Dear Parishioners,

The Easter season reminds us that Christ's Resurrection brings hope not only to our individual lives, but to the life of the Church as a whole. As members of the Diocese of Colorado Springs, we share this joy together across many parishes — large and small, urban and rural — united in the same faith and the same mission to proclaim the Gospel in our communities. The Resurrection assures us that God is present and at work among His people, even in times of challenge or uncertainty.

Easter calls us to live with confidence, knowing that the risen Christ is present in every parish, every ministry, and every act of generosity throughout our diocese. In a local Church that serves a diverse and often mobile population — including military families, long-time parishioners, and those new to the area — this shared faith becomes a powerful source of stability and hope. Christ's victory over sin and death reminds us that the Church endures not because of our own efforts alone, but because He remains faithful.

This renewal, however, is not automatic; it requires our participation. The Resurrection invites us to move forward as a people of hope, not simply admiring Christ's victory, but living it. As a diocesan family, we are strengthened when parishioners worship faithfully, remain engaged in parish life, and support the mission of the Church with unity and trust. Each parish, in its own way, becomes a visible sign of the risen Lord when its people are committed and involved.

Stewardship remains central to this shared work. When we offer our time, talent, and treasure, we strengthen our local parishes and support the broader mission of the



diocese. Stewardship is not only a personal virtue; it is also a collective responsibility. Through generous participation, our parishes are able to form disciples, care for those in need, sustain ministries, and hand on the faith to the next generation in meaningful and lasting ways.

In this issue, you will read about several ways the Holy Spirit continues to guide and strengthen our parish community. You will also find an article reflecting on my first eight months at St. Gabriel the Archangel — what I have come to appreciate about this parish and school, what I am prayerfully discerning, and why I am excited about the next chapter of our shared faith journey. We also highlight two prayerful ministries that quietly sustain our parish family: the long-standing Prayer Chain, which helps ensure prayer requests reach those ready to intercede, and the St. Monica Prayer Group, which offers support and hope to those praying for loved ones who have fallen away from the Church. Together, these stories show how God is at work among us through listening hearts, steadfast prayer, and faithful commitment.

As we continue through the Easter season, may we remain rooted in gratitude and hope. Please know of my prayers for you and your loved ones, and for all our parishes throughout the diocese, that we may live the joy of the Resurrection with faithful hearts and generous hands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Fr. Francisco J. Quezada". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "F" and "Q".

Fr. Francisco J. Quezada
Pastor

ST. GABRIEL

THE ARCHANGEL • CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY *Faithful Hearts Intercede*

When St. Gabriel the Archangel was a brand-new parish in 1998, Nancy Maney felt that the small parish needed a way to come together spiritually. She was inspired to start the Prayer Chain Ministry.

“The idea came from God,” Nancy says. “We were just a new church, very small, and we needed to pray for each other, and we needed a vehicle to get our prayer requests to each other.”

The Prayer Chain is simply an email list of dedicated parishioners whom Nancy can contact when she receives prayer requests, either directly or through the parish office. In turn, Nancy makes sure that the person being prayed for is comfortable with the prayer request being sent

out. In the years that the Prayer Chain has been active, Nancy has found that it ties the community together, brings comfort to those covered in prayer, and gives parishioners a way to help one another through hard times.

“I have found personally, and I’ve had other people tell me, that they feel connected once they’re on the Prayer Chain,” she says. “There are a lot of situations when there isn’t anything you can do, and you feel helpless. But prayer has really given us a purpose, and we see that we are surrendering and lifting up people and situations to God, who can take care of them. It gives us that sense in our whole lives. God is the only one who can really take care of things.”

The prayers of fellow parishioners are one piece in the puzzle that helps someone through a trial. While not every situation has a straightforward answer, many people have shared that the prayers brought them a sense of God’s hand in their lives.

“Recently, we had a prayer request for a daughter of one of our members whose house was completely lost in a fire,” Nancy says. “Within a



“Every pious desire, every good thought, every charitable work inspired by the love of Jesus, contributes to the perfection of the whole body of the faithful. A person who does nothing more than lovingly pray to God for his brethren, participates in the great work of saving souls.”

— Blessed Anne Catherine
Emmerich

ding for Our Neighbors in Need

day, they had found a place to live, people were outpouring generosity to them, they could feel the prayers, and they had hope instead of despair. It's a comfort and hope they get because they are not doing this alone."

Sometimes Nancy receives updates and can share them with the members.

"I love when people give me an update," she says. "I send it out as a 'prayer praise,' and give all glory and honor to God through that. We have seen prayers answered, we have seen a lot of people get comfort from this, just knowing that 106 people are praying for them."

Everyone is welcome to join the Prayer Chain and to send prayer requests to Nancy. Nothing is too small to be lifted up in prayer.

"Many people in need of prayer look to the Prayer Chain and people to surround them in prayer," Nancy says. "They say that they feel the prayers surrounding them, like God is holding them in an embrace. It's very comforting."



To join the Prayer Chain or request prayers, contact Nancy Maney at ncbelanger54@gmail.com.

FR. FRANK QUEZADA REFLECTS ON HIS FIRST EIGHT MONTHS IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY *continued from front cover*

with them and introducing myself, while also laying out the challenges ahead, especially in the stewardship of our treasure and the reality of our loan," he says. "They appreciated hearing the reality, the state of the parish, while also being reminded that God has all of this. I told them I'm not afraid."

Fr. Quezada will continue to listen before he makes any significant changes. This is something he has learned in his years in the priesthood.

"I come to serve them, listen to them, shepherd them, and pastor them, and a great deal of that involves listening," he says. "At almost 68 years old, I have come to understand how critical active listening is as a pastor."

It's been a blessing for Fr. Quezada to get to know the people of our parish.

"They are lovely," he says. "They have been

welcoming of me, my leadership style, and of me as a stranger, as their new pastor and spiritual father. They have brought me great joy through their encouragement."

As he looks to the future, Fr. Quezada knows catechesis will need attention, along with youth and young adult ministry. More catechists are needed to serve the children and youth. Also, parishioners need to be generous in their tithing.

"I can already see that the possibilities for St. Gabriel, in what I call the next chapter, are immense and endless because of the talent here — from the families of the school to the parishioners in the pews," he says. "I can't wait to see what Jesus has in store for this community as we begin writing the next chapter, the next 25 years of St. Gabriel the Archangel."

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

Living a Life of Stewardship and Discipleship

As Catholics, we often look to the lives of saints for inspiration and guidance in our own faith journeys. St. Catherine of Siena, whose feast day is celebrated on April 29, stands as a remarkable example of someone who not only embraced her faith, but also exemplified Catholic stewardship and discipleship in profound ways.

Catherine Benincasa, later known as St. Catherine of Siena, was born in 1347 in Siena, Italy. From an early age, she displayed a deep devotion to God and a remarkable sense of piety. Her life's journey was marked by an unwavering commitment to the Catholic faith, love for Christ, and a strong desire to serve others.

One of the most significant aspects of St. Catherine's life was her dedication to serving the poor and marginalized. She tirelessly cared for those afflicted by the bubonic plague, demonstrating a selfless love and compassion for the suffering. This act of charity and service to the needy resonates with the Catholic principle of stewardship — using one's resources and talents to help those less fortunate.

In our modern context, St. Catherine's example challenges us to actively engage in acts of charity, volunteerism, and social justice. By following her lead, we can transform our communities through service and outreach, reflecting the love of Christ to those who need it most.

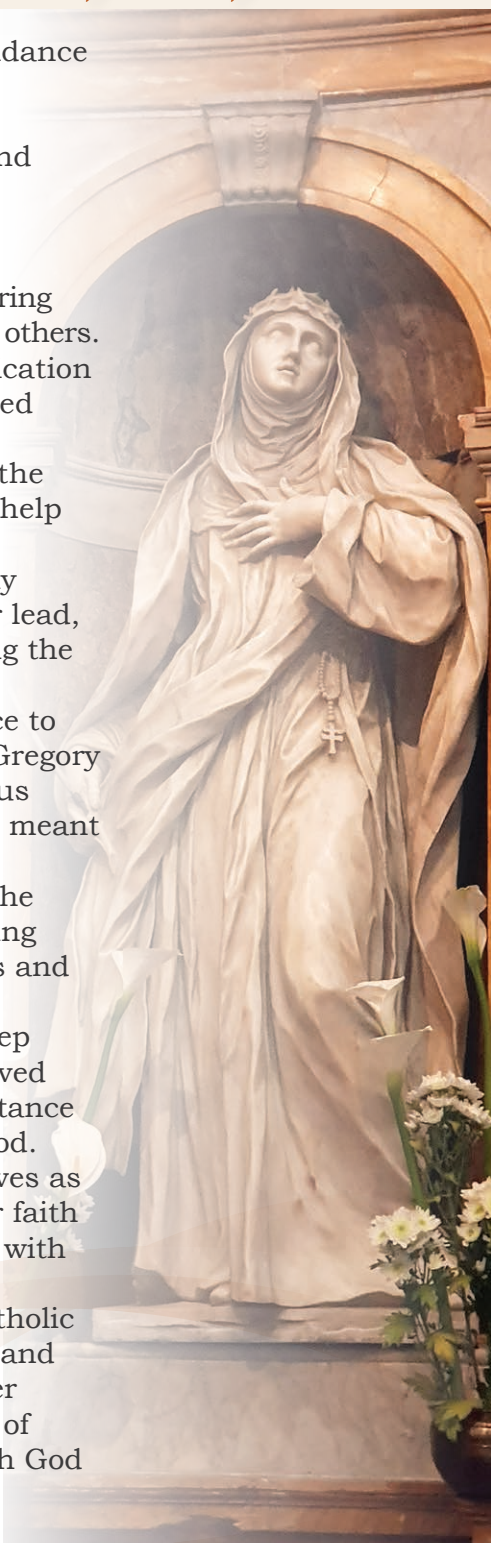
Catherine's life was deeply rooted in her faith and unwavering obedience to the teachings of the Church. She played a pivotal role in convincing Pope Gregory XI to return the papacy to Rome from Avignon, France, during a tumultuous period in the Church's history. Her dedication to the Church, even when it meant confronting powerful figures, exemplifies the essence of true discipleship.

Today, we can draw from St. Catherine's example of being obedient to the teachings of the Church and supporting its mission. By actively participating in our parish communities, sharing our faith, and upholding the traditions and teachings of the Church, we continue her legacy of faithful discipleship.

St. Catherine was known for her profound mystical experiences and deep prayer life. She had a strong personal connection with God and often received spiritual insights and guidance. These experiences remind us of the importance of nurturing our own prayer lives and seeking a closer relationship with God.

In our fast-paced, modern world, St. Catherine's devotion to prayer serves as a reminder of the significance of contemplation and spiritual growth in our faith journey. By prioritizing our prayer life, we can strengthen our relationship with God and better discern our role in serving others as Catholic stewards.

St. Catherine of Siena's life is a testament to the enduring values of Catholic stewardship and discipleship. Her dedication to service, unwavering faith, and spiritual depth continue to inspire Catholics worldwide. As we celebrate her feast day, let us reflect on her example and strive to live out the principles of stewardship and discipleship in our own lives, strengthening our bond with God and enriching our faith communities.



THE ST. MONICA PRAYER GROUP

Offering Prayerful Support for Fallen-Away Loved Ones

Parents are called to raise their children in a loving home and to teach the principles of the Catholic faith. However, many parents of adult children find themselves experiencing guilt and confusion if their children leave the Church. Fortunately, the St. Monica Prayer Group supports parishioners who are mourning loved ones who have fallen away from the Church.

Stephanie Bland is the current ministry leader of the St. Monica Prayer Group at St. Gabriel the Archangel and the mother of an adult child who is no longer practicing the faith.

"We are a support group for those who are grieving loved ones who are not following the faith — children, spouses, or any family members," she says.

Stephanie started as a co-leader when the group began over four years ago. She, along with Doug Richardson and Deacon Mike McGrady, started a book study to read and discuss *The St. Monica Club* by Maggie Green. Stephanie said the response to the book study was tremendously positive.

"It was overwhelming how many people came," she says. "Some of our most faithful parishioners attended. So, I suppose there was quite a need for it."

The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. They discuss the book the group has agreed to read together, and then they have time to pray a St. Monica chaplet or a Rosary — not only for their loved ones, but also for each other. Additionally, they have a special Mass on Aug. 27, St. Monica's feast day, when they set up an informational table to invite others to their ministry.

Stephanie explains that the St. Monica Prayer Group is similar to a grief support ministry. It's helpful for parishioners to know they are not alone in mourning the challenging faith journeys their loved ones may choose for themselves.

"There can be strong feelings of guilt, that perhaps we didn't raise our children in a way that kept them in the faith," Stephanie says. "But as a

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Through shared prayer and mutual encouragement, the St. Monica Prayer Group offers spiritual strength and renewed hope for those patiently praying for their loved ones.

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THE ST. MONICA PRAYER GROUP *continued from page 7*

group, we have reassurance that maybe it wasn't anything that we did at all, and that sometimes it's the choices of our children. There is a camaraderie, as well as an acknowledgement that it's not us. And we can pray for one another. Perhaps through our prayers, someone else may lead them back home."

The support from this ministry has helped Stephanie to experience comfort and to grow in hope. She has received feedback from other parishioners who have also expressed their gratitude.

"Within our group, several people have mentioned how important the group is because

they used to feel so alone," Stephanie says. "I, myself, couldn't talk about my daughter leaving the Church without tearing up. Now I can. This group offers us a chance to get closer to God. It's not just about our prodigal — it's about ourselves too."

Through shared prayer and mutual encouragement, the St. Monica Prayer Group offers spiritual strength and renewed hope for those patiently praying for their loved ones.

"This group is all about supporting yourself," Stephanie says. "We help heal ourselves through prayer and companionship, and we lift others up in prayer."

*St. Monica Prayer Group meetings are posted on the parish calendar.
For more information or to join, contact the parish office at 719-528-8407.*

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4 p.m. | **Sunday:** 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 12 noon (Spanish) **Daily Mass:** Monday – Friday: 8 a.m.
Adoration: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Confession: Saturday: 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. and Mercy Wednesdays (See bulletin for dates) 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.