

Christ the King

September 13, 2023

My dear friends,

If you have participated in one of our two yearly parties for the 72 residents and staff of Mur-Ci Homes, a sea of bright eyes and smiling faces surely lifted your heart. The residents of Mur-Ci Homes, who suffer profound intellectual and physical disabilities, experience real compassion from members of our parish that helps them to forget, if only for a moment, the severe limitations of their lives. Meanwhile, the staff savors our recognition of their demanding jobs, jobs which few of us would or could take on. It's amazing what a visit from Santa or a trip to the petting zoo can do!

Our work with Habitat is just as heartening, as we help hard-working and resolute families who strive to become homeowners, hoping to build a better life for themselves and their children after challenging and often dangerous living conditions in rough apartments or public housing. The families put in long hours with Habitat to develop needed financial literacy while they save the required down payment and invest their own sweat equity by building homes for others. For our part, we join with other parishes for the annual "Catholic Build," providing the funds and labor needed to construct a home. As we work alongside the new homeowners on the job site, we come to know a family that has sacrificed much to attain the American dream and we share in their sense of accomplishment. Leaving at the end of the workday, we are both exhausted and invigorated, and we know that we have seen the face of Christ once more in those around us.

I am grateful that our Christ the King community continues to show its commitment to aid those in need – the marginalized in our society – through several organized ministries and in many other ways. Eleven years ago, we began our Corporal Works of Mercy initiative, highlighting the parallel between the teachings of Jesus, which give us a model for how we treat those around us, and our work with Mur-Ci Homes and Habitat for Humanity. This year, once again, I ask for your support in our efforts to "visit the sick" and "shelter the homeless," to share your blessings with those the world has forgotten. Through our efforts for these "little ones" we, Christ the King Parish, seek to become more like Christ in the way we live.

We have enclosed an envelope for your contribution. Give whatever you are able so that this effort might be successful. You may drop your envelope into the collection basket at a weekend mass, mail your contribution to the parish office with CWM on the memo line, or visit www.ctk.org for online giving. The Knights also will be outside after each mass this weekend to collect cash contributions. Unless designated otherwise, all gifts received will be divided between Habitat and Mur-Ci Homes based on the respective annual cost of their endeavors.

In Christ,

