



UT CHRISTUS REGNET

A publication of the School Sisters of Christ the King



50 Years of Fidelity:

Great is His Faithfulness

He is *faithful,* and his fidelity is *worthy of celebrating.*

In the midst of our 50th Jubilee, there are many reasons to sound the trumpet, countless reasons to rejoice and give thanks. Each one of us Sisters could spend the rest of our lives meditating on the Father's fidelity to us. Indeed, great is His faithfulness. He has invited us into our vocations to be brides of His Son, Christ the King. He has formed our community in the heart of Holy Mother Church through so many priests, laity, and apostolates. In particular, our connection and gratitude to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary are beyond human expression.

To continue the reasons for rejoicing, our younger Sisters are in awe of our early Sisters who stayed the course amidst the turbulence of our founding years, and our older Sisters are grateful to see women continuing to respond to the call of Christ the King resounding in their hearts. Taking note of milestones reminds us of innumerable moments of grace, and yet, there is no way to fully recall all the instances of the Lord's daily fidelity, moment by moment. And... perhaps His greatest miracle – our capacity to respond to and to participate in His fidelity.

From being loved into existence as daughters of the Father and from being mothered by the Church, Christ the King invites us to labor alongside Him for the sake of furthering the Kingdom of God. Our mission of Catholic education is a beautiful way to spend our time and

energies with Him and His children (of all ages). Truly, these life-giving endeavors give tangible form to the truth that we are mothers of souls. Each day, at the end of Lauds, I pray aloud over the Community, "May Christ the King reign in your hearts and in the hearts of all those you meet this day." He does reign. He is victorious. He is faithful. Thus, we continue to strive to live and labor with Him. Prayer, community, and our mission have been and will continue to be the framework in which we encounter His faithfulness. That fidelity is worthy of celebrating.

We invite you to rejoice with us, thanking Christ the King for His reign in our hearts and yours. May we remain committed to working together so that our Community and the Church may flourish and remain faithful to the mission the Holy Spirit entrusted to Bishop Glennon Patrick Flavin. Ut Christus Regnet! That Christ may reign!

In the Heart of the King, I am,

Mother Margaret Mary, C.K.

Mother Margaret Mary, CK



In this Issue ...

In this issue, we reflect on jubilees. These are graced times to look back on the crosses and blessings of the past and forward with expectation of the gifts to come from our generous King. As you celebrate the glorious resurrection of Christ, may this Easter season also be a time of gratitude and hope in the new life Jesus has won for each of us.

A Picture Study

Title: Christ's Entrance to Jerusalem

Artist: Hippolyte Flandrin

Date: 1848

Medium: Fresco

Location: Church of Saint Germain des Pres, Paris

Artist Background: Hippolyte Flandrin was born in Lyon, France and studied Byzantine and early Renaissance art at the French art academy in Rome. Returning to France, he used the technique mastered in Rome to usher in a revival of religious painting across the country. *Christ's Entry into Jerusalem* is one of a series of frescos depicting the life of Christ which Flandrin painted around the nave of the Church of Saint Germain in Paris.

A Closer Look: This painting shows the familiar scene we celebrate on Palm Sunday. Jesus fulfills the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9. His relaxed bearing (from His rounded shoulders to His hanging feet) highlights His humility while His head and face show confident determination. Flandrin's Jesus is a King who is confidently in control of the situation. At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus stated that He was going to bring a "jubilee year" to His people. (Luke 4:21) This jubilee (or "year acceptable to the Lord") was a time when captives were set free, workers had rest from their labors and many were healed. Three years after this proclamation, His entry into Jerusalem was the official start of the Jubilee. Just as Jesus is a paradoxical King, coming humbly and meekly on a donkey, the jubilee year is fulfilled spiritually on earth and eternally in heaven.



Consider: Although Hippolyte Flandrin was famous for his life-like portraits, most of the characters in this fresco are muted shadows. Flandrin invites each of us to step into the crowd as Jesus officially opens the eternal jubilee year. Like Holy Week, this moment is one of great sorrow and joy. Consider the many thoughts and feelings of the characters in the crowd.

What do you seek from the King of Kings, who comes to bring each of us liberty, sight, and friendship?

By Sister Mary Gabriel, CK

C.K. History

Community Highlights



Sept. 12, 1976: Seeing a need to carry on the teaching of the Catholic Faith and to help form an apostolic laity, Bishop Glennon Patrick Flavin founded the School Sisters of Christ the King. The first Sisters were sent to Villa Maria Motherhouse in Immaculata, PA for their religious formation.



1979: Three IHM Sisters were sent from Immaculata, PA, to Lincoln, NE. Sister John Evelyn, Sister Joseph Fidelis and Sister Mary Lorraine, IHM, opened St. Joseph School. This school became the first diocesan school administered by the CK Sisters.



1984: Bishop Flavin arranged for a temporary motherhouse to be built and moved the formation program to Lincoln. The IHM Sisters generously sent Sister Regina Marion, IHM, to be the formation directress and help the new religious Sisters set firm roots in the diocese.



1992: The permanent Villa Regina Motherhouse was built just outside of Lincoln. The Motherhouse is home to all the Sisters and provides a place of silence and solitude for them to grow together as a loving religious family.

"Always remember, you belong to the King!"
from Bishop Flavin's last conference to the community

1994: Bishop Flavin appointed Mother Joan Paul, CK, to be the first Mother General of the community. He also appointed a General Council of three Sisters to assist her. In this same year, Sister Regina Marion, IHM, returned to Pennsylvania. The IHM Sisters remain spiritual mothers to the CK community.



1995: Bishop Flavin was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. The day before his death he gave the CK Sisters, his spiritual daughters, a final conference reminding them of their total belonging to the King and about living as a family, united in love.



November 26, 2017: Bishop James D. Conley, bishop of Lincoln, establishes the School Sisters of Christ the King as a religious institute of diocesan right.



September 12, 2026: The Sisters celebrate the golden jubilee of their founding. The community takes a pilgrimage back to Villa Maria Motherhouse in Immaculata, PA, in gratitude for the faithfulness of the Father and to deepen in their vocation as School Sisters of Christ the King.





Wisdom

from our Mothers

I have always had difficulty writing thank you notes because words seem so inadequate. I have this dilemma with my spiritual mothers and sisters, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM), who adopted us into their religious formation program for six years when our community was in its infancy. As an expression of gratitude to them, I share the following words of wisdom gained during our formation in Immaculata, Pennsylvania, which have helped me to live my religious life more peacefully and authentically.

“I am who I am in the sight of God, no more, no less.” As a young woman desiring to be holy, it is common to flip this desire upside down and compare myself with the holier, more confident and capable women around me. The formation directress has the challenging and fundamental task of keeping our focus on Christ while He forms us as He desires.

“Perfection is doing the best I can do in the time I have to do it.” Our expectations of ourselves need to be tempered with reality. There is an infinite amount of good I can do, studies I can pursue, help I can provide, etc., yet the finite amount of time allotted is an important aspect of keeping within God’s will. We were taught to “work with alacrity” – joyful haste – then leave what was undone in God’s hands.

“You must have needed the rest.” What a relief it was when I heard these words the first time I overslept! It is such a merciful way of acknowledging good intentions and helping me embrace my humanity.

“A lady never makes work for another lady.” In its most basic sense, this means not intentionally leaving our things in an area that another Sister is charged with cleaning. In reality, our tasks are beautifully interconnected as we offer to assist each other in myriad ways.

“Be gentle but firm,” was common advice given when we were being prepared to teach. Observing the ways the Sisters created a joyful and loving atmosphere while maintaining classroom discipline was another great gift from our IHM Sisters.

“I love a well-made bed; it’s the one thing I can do just for myself.” When an older Sister in Camilla Hall, the IHM Sisters’ infirmary, made this assertion to me, it shook me a bit. I thought, “It’s going to be a long life!” I found out religious life is not as gloomy as it sounded because we do many enjoyable things for ourselves. I can’t count the number of times I have thought of this Sister with a smile as I made my bed.

“As the twig is bent, so grows the tree.” The joy and privilege of having visited and helped the Sisters at Camilla Hall has continued to be a great blessing and has encouraged me to embrace the process of aging. We were invited to observe the older Sisters and imagine the kind of Sister we would like to become. The Sisters were gracious and kind, maybe slowing down a bit, but with great beauty and humor.

I hope that I have been bent to grow older like that!

“Pray for the grace of final perseverance.” This was a frequent reminder in a sweet Irish brogue by a Sister in her 90s. Yes, Sister; may we persevere as you did!

Thank you to our dearly beloved friends, the IHM Sisters!

by Sister Maura Therese, CK





Photo by Vatican Media

Mothered by the Church

Saint Peter has been a good friend of mine. He encountered the King of the Universe in his own little fishing boat, and after Jesus looked him in the eyes and called him, the ordinariness of his life became characterized by the Divine desire in pursuit of him. It was the friendship between the Lord and Peter that helped me know Jesus is real and that He is also desirous of friendship with me. For this reason, I asked to be named after the Saint who could talk to Jesus, eat with Him, walk with Him and touch Him. Saint Peter brought to life our God who is alive and in love with His Church.

This year I have been assigned to live and study in Rome. The heart of the Church has become my home. As I walk to school every day, I travel the same places that many saints have walked, and living only twenty minutes from the Vatican has placed me in the shadow of my good friend Peter. In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter's shadow brought hope and joy

to the early followers of Christ. I have found that it is no different two thousand years later. The heart of our Church is beating with life through her sacraments, her saints, her priests and her faithful. Her maternal heart is providing for her sons and daughters who desire to touch the Lord. On the facade of the Basilica of Saint John Lateran is an inscription that reads, "Mother and Head of All the Churches of the City and the World." As I recently walked under these words and into the basilica, I felt the grace of being in the presence of a mother. Some of my favorite memories of being a daughter include the times that my mom tucked me into bed each evening. Our nightly routine didn't amount to more than a couple of minutes during which she wrapped the covers around me, kissed me and told me she loved me. Entering this church made me feel like my mom's arms were wrapped around me again, embracing me with a love only a mother can give.

Among the many statues lining the main aisle of this basilica, there stands my good friend Saint Peter with one hand outstretched and the other holding the keys. In the many Roman churches I've been able to visit and pray in, most of them, if not all, offer an image of Peter looking back at me. Weak and fallen as he was, he holds those keys with all the strength of his heart as though he were saying to me, I promise to take care of you. Jesus established His Church on Peter and through the Church, our King will touch us and lead us "to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you." (1 Peter 1:4)



By Sister Peter Marie, CK



In Gratitude

There is one early memory I have of the Christ the King Sisters. My childhood home was near their Lincoln convent, and oftentimes, they would walk by our house during their evening rosary walk. They were so beautiful. I can still see it: the deep blue habits, the rosary beads, and the smiles. If I saw them coming in time, I could run out front to say ‘hello’. The way they greeted me, said my name, and asked about my day made me feel like the most special girl in the world.

I have many memories of the Sisters, because I went to school where they taught. I could see the school out our back windows and would watch as the Sisters arrived early for school, wearing their navy coats and carrying satchels as their veils blew in the Nebraska wind. After school, they left later, wearing the same coats and carrying the same satchels filled with new papers to grade. On Wednesdays, I would see them leading a line of CCD students to and from the church. Their consistency and presence taught me a deeper lesson. A life lived for Jesus is daily and, more often than not, it is simple.

My husband also attended a school run by the Sisters. Providentially, the year his brother had cancer and died, he had a Sister as his teacher. He still talks about how much he appreciated and enjoyed her. I also had a Sister as my teacher the year my mom got cancer and died. I know the Sisters prayed diligently for our families in those times and were instrumental in caring for us. It amazes me to think that in seasons when Jesus was asking our own mothers to carry heavy crosses, he provided us with much-needed spiritual mothers.

I ended up working at my old school for the same wonderful Sister who was the principal when I was a girl. After five years of teaching, it was clear I needed to stay home with our children and I was heart-broken to leave. During our meeting, she encouraged me, “You should do what Jesus is asking of you. This is what your family needs.” A wave of relief swept over me. Her words freed me to follow God’s plan and gave me the courage to enter into the next phase of life confident that Jesus would remain by my side.

Our sons go to a Christ the King school now and they love the Sisters as much as I do. My heart is filled with gratitude to watch them receive the same gifts I have over the years: their beauty, faithfulness, and spiritual motherhood. I can see the Sisters’ joy and delight in the little souls they work so hard to form and love. This is becoming its own great gift in my life. I get to mother my young children side by side with the women I have loved for a long time.

By Grace Raun



Photo Album





*School Sisters
of Christ the King*

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50th Jubilee Celebration Mass and Reception

Sept. 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Cathedral of the Risen Christ

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