



SPECIAL ISSUE // JUNE 2023

LIFE IN OUR PARISH

DISCIPLESHIP IN ACTION AT CHRIST THE REDEEMER PARISH

Arrivederci, Msgr. Smith



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**Note: throughout this special edition, each article is named after a musical number. Msgr. Smith loves musicals and this is just another way we wanted to honour him!*



SO LONG, FAREWELL

FROM THE STAFF & CORE TEAM

When Msgr. Smith came to Christ the Redeemer in 2007, he inherited a parish built on solid foundations, thanks to Fr. Tim McCarthy. Since the parish's inception in 1990, Fr. Tim had shepherded a committed group of parishioners and volunteers, grown financial reserves, and developed beautiful, well-maintained facilities. While his contributions are essential to the legacy of Christ the Redeemer, when Monsignor set foot into the office in 2007, he found a single computer and white paint primer on all the walls. He quickly got to work.

Within this commemorative edition of the parish magazine, you will see evidence of many of the physical changes Monsignor has continued to make to improve the facilities (including the office!) over the years. But the real impact of his leadership is more than skin-deep. These spaces were not created just for aesthetic purposes, but as tangible spaces to live out a spirit of hospitality, welcome, and evangelization which has characterized Christ the Redeemer under Monsignor's leadership. For example, one of Monsignor's first priorities was to intentionally shift the tabernacle to the center of the sanctuary so that our eyes are always fixed on Jesus.

Early on, Monsignor recognized the parish's potential to become a place of hope and joy; a vision that has driven him throughout the past 15 years. Being a Canon lawyer, Monsignor took on his pastoral responsibility seriously, attending to the call with dedication and zeal. He has always considered those in his care to not only include active parishioners, but every soul within the parish boundary.

And he has led by example, placing personal and pastoral emphasis on relationship with Christ and with others. He often hosts visiting clergy and friends; was an early adopter of parish-based Alpha as a way for parishioners to come to know Jesus in a new or deeper way; and he has faithfully maintained a pastoral presence in the wider

community via St. Anthony's School, St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary and Amica West Vancouver.

Although Monsignor has had many competing priorities during his time as pastor of CTR — including leadership of the Permanent Diaconate Program and his position as Vicar General — he has never wavered in his dedication to parish leadership. We have consistently seen that the parish — particularly you, his parishioners — is where his heart comes alive. It has been a pleasure to work alongside a pastor who leads not only from a place of strategic vision, but deep love for Jesus and His people.

We have witnessed Monsignor well up with emotion many times as he has shared in your joy, grief, and the celebratory moments of your lives. He also has an incredible gift for recognizing and celebrating the individual and unique gifts of those around him. Many have been blessed by his thoughtfulness and gratitude.

In recent years, inspired by the framework of *Forming Intentional Disciples* by Sherry Weddell, Monsignor launched the parish into a journey from maintenance to mission, activating the gifts that already existed within the parish. Over the years, the parish vision has become clearer and more focused, but the essence has remained the same: that Christ the Redeemer would be an irresistible parish because each of us lives a life that radiates the joy of the Gospel. Thanks to Monsignor's steady conviction, we are well on our way.

Monsignor, thank you for highlighting so beautifully the charisms with which the Holy Spirit has anointed our parish, and for inviting us to continue on the path of discipleship, generosity, hospitality, and mission. We are committed to continuing to grow the missional spirit which you have cultivated at CTR. We will miss you, but trust that "God works for good in all things" (Romans 8:28). We are one Church and we will continue on the journey, physically apart but spiritually united.

- Catherine Davidson & Krista Greig, on behalf of the Staff & Core Team



WONDERFUL GUY

A PROFILE OF MSGR. SMITH

Monsignor has the heart of a Shepherd and the zeal of an Apostle. In the “APEST” test, a ministry tool used to help identify one’s gifts, these two traits rise to the top for Monsignor.

A SHEPHERD’S HEART

Those who know Monsignor closely know he has not only the heart of the Father, but a genuine fatherly heart. Monsignor has a gift for enriching relationships, creating loving community, and challenging individuals to grow and become who God calls them to be. In his vocation as a priest, he is a father to many. In the words of a few parishioners:

Monsignor, it is impossible to overstate how much you have impacted my spiritual growth; I would not be the man I am today without your guidance and care over the past 15 odd years. I wish you all the best as you venture into your new parish and into your new role for the diocese! Thank you for living up to your given ‘title’ as father! – Jeremy Keong

In planning [Monsignor’s] calendar, I’ve seen the focus and emphasis he places on spiritual direction; it’s admirable. It’s what he thrives in and enjoys: the journeying with and mentoring other souls. The nurturing, fatherly spirit he shares with everyone, and his care for them, is something I’ve always admired. There are very few people in this world that I know who are genuinely as interested in people and their wellbeing (in all aspects) as much as Monsignor. – Thomas Chan

So many memories! From first meeting you when we were both just kids at St. Patrick’s Elementary, to officiating at

our wedding and eventually leading us in service at CTR, and all the many moments in between! But it was Dec. 23, 2003, when a close uncle had passed away and you came running to our aid when we called – in that moment, we first understood that you were much more than a great friend and mentor, but also a living example of St. Joseph in our lives. Both of us lost our own fathers way too soon, but like St. Joseph, you have always been a prudent guide and protector for us. – Deacon Marty & Lora Cayer

“Our Korean Father”: Like a father, he was there for all of my major life events (confirmation and wedding), and times of difficulty. [As a family], we love you so much. We are extremely grateful for everything you’ve done for us. Not enough words to describe how grateful we are and how much we love you. We will continue to keep you in our prayers. – The Chois

Msgr. Greg will be sorely missed in this household. From stopping by on his first walking tour of the neighbourhood many years ago, to walking by with a new seminarian to show him our wisteria, to outdoor BBQs with Fr. Jeff or just sitting in the kitchen keeping warm by the Aga. But I will miss him most of all as spiritual director. The care and time he took to help my wavering spiritual path straighten and move forward is the greatest gift he gave me. God bless you Monsignor as you forge your new path as pastor of Holy Name! – Karen Magee



I am a lawyer, and Fr. Greg never ceases to remind me that our days are not dissimilar, as we both get called upon to help people when they are dealing with life's big challenges and issues. But he also is always sure to remind me that he doesn't get to charge by the hour. That's a good thing for us because Fr. Greg would be the richest man in West Vancouver (and that is no small feat) if he could bill out his time (like I do).

But we are all richer because Fr. Greg is not a shameless lawyer but rather, a dynamo of a priest, a messenger of love and a trooper of compassionate comfort. I personally have been the grateful recipient of that good counsel on the very night before I embarked on my new journey of sobriety.

Fr. Greg is the busiest fellow I know but he also finds time for everyone, and it's as if that person is the most important person in the world at that moment. What a talent. In Proverbs 10:22, it is written: "The blessings of the Lord makes a person rich." Monsignor, my friend, you don't charge by the hour, but I know how rich you are.

- Tim Lack (photo above, the night before I went to rehab)

A ZEALOUS APOSTLE

An apostle, in Greek, means "sent one." To be an apostle is to be missional, and we have seen no shortage of Monsignor's missional outlook over the past fifteen years. Msgr. Smith has been a pioneer for programs like the CCO Faith Studies and has never been one to shy away from trying something new. At the same time, he holds fast to the core identity of the parish and the ways in which the Holy Spirit has anointed Christ the Redeemer to bring about the Kingdom of God.

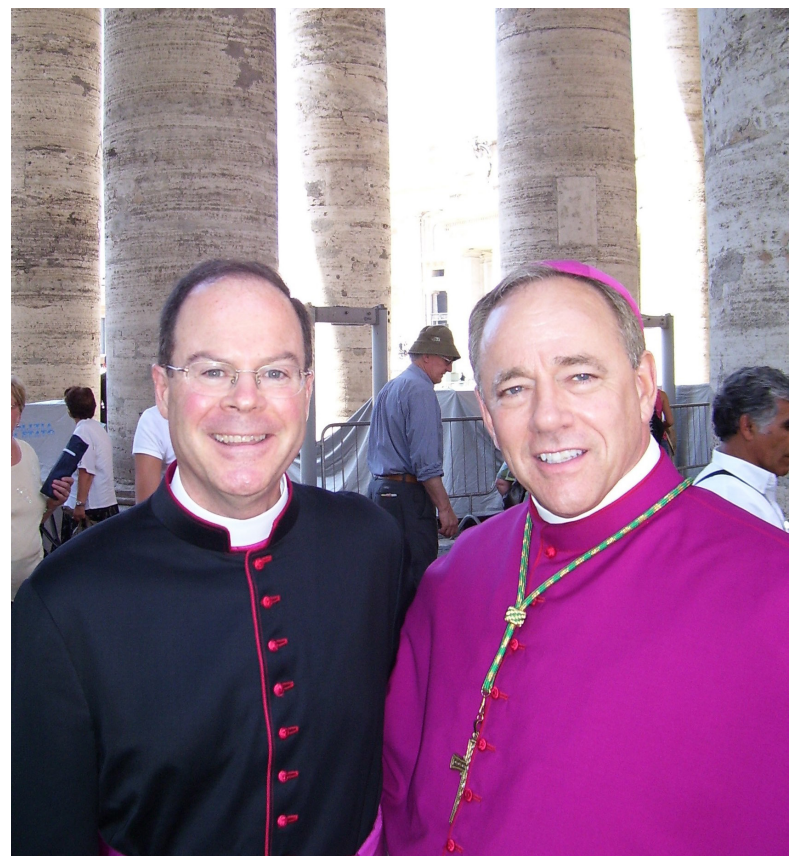
Monsignor never hesitated to open his door and host the parish. Be it men's groups over the years, Youth Min, or music teams, he always made time for his parishioners despite a packed schedule. It's impossible to doubt how much Monsignor cares about this parish community. Monsignor helped the parish navigate complex circumstances over the years and always did so with a smile and a fantastic sense of humour. He will be missed! - Andrew Maledy

Monsignor makes things happen. The pandemic brought this to the forefront when he had to go to the drawing board to decide how to maintain a relevant and meaningful parish without personal contact. We had a front row seat to the background work done to bring livestreamed Masses to the congregation – of course, Monsignor-style with a full sound crew! He never cuts corners when it is something that matters. And who could forget Easter Vigil, when the livestream just refused to work and we had to go to plan B – here his patience and acceptance was on display, never flustered and finding humour and grace in the process. - Nick & Jane Curalli

I had to wait five years from becoming Catholic before I could apply to the diaconate. Whenever Monsignor would bring up the subject of the diaconate with the Friday morning Men's Group, we would look at each other, smile and acknowledge that I was still waiting. - Deacon Steve Whan

Msgr. Greg ... Shawna and I remember your first homily that August many years ago when you filled our beautiful parish with a new fresh life. I also remember the first meeting of the Men's Group in the rectory and your impact there, along with your support of Alpha in the past, as you allowed it to flourish again! I can list so many other things too: you arrived as Father Greg, and leave now as our Monsignor and beloved dear friend. - Ed & Shawna Zadeiks

There are countless moments that Monsignor and I have shared over the 15 years we have known each other, but the thing I cherish the most was our weekly encounters with the 'Wild Goose' (Holy Spirit). - Brandon Green





GET ME TO THE CHURCH ON TIME

MSGR. SMITH by the NUMBERS



266 BAPTISMS

699 FIRST COMMUNIONS

704 CONFIRMATIONS

85 WEDDINGS

159 FUNERALS

6 ASSISTANT PASTORS

1+1 DEACON AND ACOLYTE

\$765K+ RAISED FOR CHARITABLE WORKS*

CHRIST THE REDEEMER PARISH



***CHARITABLE IMPACT**

Since 2007, under Monsignor's leadership, Christ the Redeemer has raised \$765,184 in support of St. Vincent de Paul, Pro-Life, the Diocese of Whitehorse, Sacred Heart, Harvest Project, our refugee families — the Shaboos, the Dayekhs, and the Gatares — and more. And that impressive number doesn't include the total raised through the Archdiocesan second collections: in all, \$731,280 in support of vocations, pro-life, youth ministry, retired priests, and other initiatives and funds. Thank you for responding to Monsignor's call to generosity!

FROM THE ASSISTANT PASTORS

SIDE BY SIDE BY SIDE



FR. GUY ZIDAGO (2022-2023)

“...zeal for your house will consume me.” – Psalm 69:9

One thing that truly characterizes Msgr. Smith is his deep love for Mother Church and its people. As a chancellor, episcopal vicar, and moderator of the Curia, he has served with zeal and love, always seeking to make a positive impact on the lives of those he serves.

But what strikes me most about Msgr. Smith is his leadership style, which is rooted in valuing others. As John C. Maxwell writes in his book, *Everyone Communicates, Few Connect: What the Most Effective People Do Differently*, to add value to others, one must first *value others*. This principle is evident in his interactions with everyone he encounters. He takes the time to listen, understand, and support those around him, and it is this leadership style that has endeared him to so many.

As I say goodbye to Msgr. Smith, I am grateful for the privilege of having served alongside him. I will forever be inspired by his example, and I know that I am not alone in this sentiment.

Thank you, Msgr. Smith, for your unwavering dedication, love, and passion for the Church and its people. You have left an indelible mark on our hearts and will be deeply missed. God bless you, always.

- Fr. Guy Zidago

(Photo by Angelo Siglos via the BC Catholic)

FR. LUCIO CHOI (2021-2022)

As many CTR parishioners are aware, I am a foodie—meaning I’m a person who loves food and is very interested in different types of food. I wanted to become a world renowned chef and successful restaurateur like Jamie Oliver or Gordon Ramsay, but be that as it may, God had another plan for me. However, my passion for great food didn’t go away after my priestly ordination and I continued to share it with my family, friends, and pastors I get to live with.

I felt that no one fully understood my heartfelt passion and interest until I met Msgr. Gregory Smith. He and I connected instantly when sharing my favorite restaurant experience, showing off each other’s cookbook collection, and discussing some of the best food/drink pairings, etc.

Although I was at CTR for only a year, we had some great fun cooking for guests who stayed with us at the rectory. At times, Msgr. Smith threw in some challenges by buying random ingredients and asking me to incorporate them into the menu! I’m NO Iron Chef.

I had great fun with Msgr. Smith in the kitchen, and I hope we can make more beautiful memories together over great food and drinks. And although I’m no Iron Chef, perhaps I can be an Iron Priest just like Msgr. Smith one day. *Ad multos annos*, Monsignor!

Here are a few photos of one dinner I made at CTR:

- Butter-Poached Scallops with Green Pea Puree, Quail Eggs, Prosciutto Chips & Tuiles de Fromage
- Classic French Ratatouille
- Sous-Vide-ed Pork Tenderloin with Mushroom & Purple Cabbage Coleslaw

- Fr. Lucio Choi





FR. GIOVANNI SCHIESARI (2017-2019)

There are so many good memories that come to mind thinking about my two years with Monsignor at Christ the Redeemer Parish. I would like to start by saying that Monsignor is a really hard-working person. So many times, on many different occasions, I witnessed the pastoral care Monsignor has for his people. He is a man who really tries to grow and bless his congregation in many ways.

For example, I recall at least a ‘thousand’ meetings with the Core Team of Christ the Redeemer. Every week, rain, or shine, we met to discuss new ideas and ways to better our parish community and grow the faith of our parishioners. Monsignor would come up with something new to try, and we all followed with great enthusiasm.

Besides being a hard-working person, Monsignor is also an amazing guest master. I can’t remember the number of times I would wake up to a delicious fresh baked Nutella croissant from Cobs that Monsignor would get for me early in the morning.

The number of gifts and treats I received from him exceed all the thank you notes I could ever write. The doors of the rectory at CTR have always been open for me. Monsignor really treated me like a son, always ready to answer any difficult canon law questions I ask him via texting. And for all this I am super grateful to him.

I’d like to finish by saying: Thank you Father, for being so loving and caring to me. People will certainly miss you at CTR. Let’s keep in touch! And God bless you wherever you will be.

With great affection,

- Fr. Gio

FR. JEFFERSON THOMPSON (2019-2021)

I have lived in Basilian houses with Basilian Fathers all my priestly life. Coming to Christ the Redeemer in 2019, a parish that I already knew well through my sister’s family, was nevertheless not without its daunting aspects, not least of which was the prospect of living with a Monsignor. Soon enough, I was growing accustomed to him, and I hope he to me, when all of a sudden that ghastly and beastly pandemic invaded the world and overturned our lives.

Now what? No other company, no trips, no escapes. Just Monsignor and I, confined within the rectory walls together. Just us. Was this going to turn into an Agatha Christie (murder) mystery? With neither of us ever at a loss for words, chatter became bountiful around the clock. It’s all we had. We shared personal anecdotes from our seminary shenanigans after (and sometimes during) Vespers, we discussed newspaper columns and novels and plays and musicals (with Monsignor sometimes spontaneously breaking into Broadway tunes), we marveled at how Shakespeare is literally everywhere in our daily language, we luxuriated in the finer intricacies of Canon Law (which I tried to give up for Lent), we invented a cocktail or two (which I forgot to give up for Lent), we paused daily Mass to discuss the historicity and/or theology of the Scriptures that one of us had just proclaimed (there was, after all, nobody else in the church to be confused or shocked by these unconventional liturgical diversions), and we were sure to wake up before the birds every Friday for the Men’s Prayer Group on Zoom — well, Monsignor woke up bright and cheery, while I thanked the Zoom gods for covering over a multitude of sins. In short, we found so much to crush our pandemic woes that it never occurred to us that makeup might not have been a bad idea for the Sunday livestream Masses.

Thank you, Monsignor Smith, for two very chatty, funny, and stimulating years at Christ the Redeemer. Spending a pandemic with you rivals even a séjour on the French Riviera (where we couldn’t go anyway). Cheers! *Ad multos annos!*

- Fr. Jeff Thompson, CSB





FR. PAUL GOO (2015-2017)

This picture was taken at the parish Skating Party on Boxing Day 2015, a few months after I started serving at CTR as a brand-new priest. I shared it on Instagram with the comment, “I must say we look like brothers. Kind of.” The post received many ‘likes’ by parishioners! I was happy to share it because I thought it was emblematic of my relationship with my boss. Eight years later, I can still affirm that my intuition remains the same—both in regard to the relationship and the resemblance (kind of)!

when it comes to my strengths and weaknesses. He demonstrates respect by granting me the freedom to discern and decide on important matters of ministry. He delights in witnessing my growth, both in my achievements and through my failures. During my time at CTR I realized that my boss was more like a father to me, in the best sense of the term. And like any good father, he has also been a supportive brother and a friend.

Serving at CTR under Msgr. Greg for my first pastoral appointment was an immense blessing. I am grateful for his continued guidance, which has led to my upcoming appointment as pastor for the same beloved community. If I could even slightly resemble Msgr. Greg in his genuine care for CTR parishioners, I would consider myself a successful pastor.

- Fr. Paul Goo

In Memoriam (1972-2017)

FR. XAVIER ROYAPPAN (2011-2015)



Among the numerous gifts that Msgr. Greg has brought to the parish community, one that I personally appreciate the most is his mentorship. True to being a great mentor, Msgr. Greg makes me feel genuinely cared for. He is not only a knowledgeable advisor who knows how to solve problems; he often has the foresight to understand me better than I understand myself, particularly

SCHOOL SONG

Dear Monsignor, as you prepare to leave Christ the Redeemer, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for all that you have done for St. Anthony’s School during your time here. Your generous spirit, wisdom, sense of humour, and unwavering devotion have been an inspiration to us all.

Your kindness and compassion have touched the lives of so many, and your commitment to your vocation has been a guiding light for our school community. You have shared your wisdom with us through your homilies and anecdotes, and your gentle guidance has helped us navigate the challenges of life with grace and understanding.

Your sense of humour (and love of Math and P.E.) has brought joy to our hearts and has lifted our spirits. Your willingness to listen and offer comfort and support has been a true blessing, and we will miss your presence and guidance in our lives.

As you move on to Holy Name Parish, know that you will always be remembered with love and gratitude. Your time with us has made a lasting impact, and we are better people because of you.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our school and for sharing your gifts and talents with us. May God bless you and keep you always.

With deep appreciation and warmest wishes,

- Laila Maravillas (Mrs. M)
On behalf of St. Anthony’s School

I have been blessed to share fifteen years with Msgr. Smith at Christ the Redeemer and St. Anthony’s School. I have witnessed him ride a horse gracefully, and dismount (less gracefully). I have watched as he asked questions in school Masses and gently guided the

respondent (be they student or teacher) towards the [best] answer. For all these things I am forever grateful. Beyond these though, in both importance and gratitude, is the genuine love of the Sacrament of Reconciliation that he has helped me discover. Through this, Msgr. Smith has changed my life in a profound and wonderful way. Thank you, my friend! I will miss you.

- Rob Siddle



OPENING DOORS

PHYSICAL CHANGES UNDER MONSIGNOR'S LEADERSHIP

One of the most visible — and lasting — legacies of Msgr. Smith's time with us are his physical changes to the church. These include renovations to the sanctuary, baptistery, confessionals, and meeting rooms; although he is quick to shift the credit to our church's original architect, Oberto Oberti, to his colleague Glenn Ledingham, and to our dedicated parish volunteer Donal O'Callaghan (himself an architect and gifted carpenter). Monsignor also speaks with admiration of carpenter Jose Antunes, who did much of the finishing work single-handed.

Under the direction of Donal O'Callaghan, our original Stations of the Cross were completed with marble plaques, elegantly engraved with the name of each Station. An icon of the Divine Mercy was commissioned from Steve Knight, a retired art teacher at St. Anthony's School, which now hangs in a small chapel outside the confessionals.

Monsignor *does* like to point out that he was initially "too cheap" to welcome the recent redesign of the meeting rooms and the new courtyard proposed by Nicole Bitelli and other Core Team members — which turned out to be wildly successful and a powerful statement that Christ the Redeemer Parish was welcoming and "open for business" after the pandemic.

Another enhancement to our attractive building was the new entrance doors, which are not only beautiful in themselves but have brought much light into the foyer, opening the outside to the church and vice-versa.

Thank you, Monsignor; we will be making good use of these spaces for worship and gathering for many years to come!



Above: New parish doors
Below: Old parish plaza



Below: Donal O'Callaghan received a Papal medal for his architectural contributions to the Archdiocese of Vancouver



Left: Old foyer space
Right: Renovated meeting space





THE NICEST KIDS IN TOWN

A HEART FOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

From visiting the Grade 7s on retreat at Timberline Ranch, to spending a weekend at Evans Lake in Squamish for the Greater Than Retreat, to attending World Youth Day in Madrid, Msgr. Smith has always been dedicated to helping young people grow closer to Jesus.

“You give them something to eat.” I have heard Msgr. Smith say some version of these words of our Lord at least a hundred times. Whether it’s on the last day of PREP, at a youth retreat meeting, or on the parish feast day, the message is always clear: we must feed the people, and feed them as well as we can.

A shepherd feeds his sheep. Long before the Alpha program became what it is now at the parish, Monsignor has known and shown that spiritual food just so happens to pair really well with actual food. When I started as Youth Ministry Coordinator, I inherited a long-standing tradition of including a meal with teen ministry events. And it wasn’t just slices of pizza —though I will admit there were many, many boxes of cheese pizza over the years! Our volunteer cooks turned out some inspiring meals for our lucky teens, no doubt inspired by the care with which

Monsignor plays host. For a number of years, the parish offered MEAT events, an acronym for “Men Eating and Talking,” which was an astonishingly accurate name for what went on

during those nights that saw upwards of thirty young men gathering monthly for a shared meal accompanying prayer and formation.

Beyond securing the pizza budget for hungry teens and young adults, Monsignor consistently made a point of investing in the care and involvement of our young people in the parish. With his support, the parish has always kept a youth ministry coordinator on staff, invited youth to participate in parish leadership, encouraged young adults to go on mission with CCO (Catholic Christian Outreach) or NET Ministries, and provided many young people with the opportunity to experience retreats and spiritual formation beyond the parish level: sending them to Searching in the Spirit, World Youth Day, or our own Greater Than Youth Retreat.

It also must be said that Monsignor rarely turns down an opportunity to offer Eucharistic adoration and confession at youth and young adult events, which more often than not go on far past his bedtime. “And now, I really must bid you all goodnight, lest I turn into a pumpkin,” is a common farewell before he walks across the lot to the rectory, after what is sometimes a 14-hour day. If he couldn’t preside over Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament himself, the conversation wasn’t over until all options were pursued. Again, a shepherd feeds his sheep.

A testament to his paternal care, Monsignor doesn’t just





come out to youth and young adults events; our young people know they can go to him as well. On so many occasions, as I exited the parking lot at the end of my day, I would glance at the rectory to see Monsignor (supposedly at the end of *his* day) opening the office door to welcome in a weary young soul, somehow squeezed into his schedule for spiritual direction and a hot cup of tea or coffee. If the appointment happened to be adjacent to the dinner hour, it was not uncommon for Monsignor to set an extra plate at the kitchen table, and invite the young person over to the church to pray the Liturgy of the Hours before the meal.

Msgr. Smith's unique charism of hospitality has borne much spiritual fruit in his vocation as pastor, not least of all in the way that youth and young adults are welcomed and nourished at CTR. It has changed the way that I approach ministry, and I'm certain his next parish will be all the more blessed for it.

- Vanessa Lacson, *Youth Ministry Coordinator from 2012-2022*



LIFE IN OUR PARISH

WHO LIVES, WHO DIES, WHO TELLS YOUR STORY

AN ODE TO MONSIGNOR'S LOVE OF BOOKS

Msgr. Smith loves print media. His love for books, newspapers, and more is a central reason this parish magazine exists and continues to be published twice a year. It might even be said that books are Monsignor's love language; those who come to him for spiritual direction know that a book is to Monsignor what a prescription pad is to a doctor.

As stories came in to compile this edition of *Life in Our Parish*, it was impossible to miss the sheer number of submissions that included something about Monsignor's love of books. It seemed only fitting that we chose to compile a special edition of the parish magazine as a farewell gift and to tell a bit of Monsignor's story. It's also our way of compensating for transitioning the bulletin to digital format!

Daniel Curalli beautifully sums up what many have come to know about Monsignor and his 'recommended reading' in the following reflection:

"Msgr. Smith has shared many wise words and ideas with me over the years, both as a spiritual director and as a friend. He is generous with his time, talent and treasure as he so often encourages us to be. A fabulous combination of these three stewardship forms can be found in his love and knowledge of books. He

has an immense talent for knowing exactly what words can be found in what book, and how they will be of even greater assistance than what he could say. He takes the time not only to recommend the book, but to have it delivered immediately (I think he has Amazon on speed dial), even if it means using some of his own "treasure" to make it happen. The number of books I have accrued at Monsignor's insistence is staggering and each has been helpful to me in a different way. I still have reading to do."

Here are some of the books you may have received from Monsignor over the years:

- *Searching for and Maintaining Peace* by Fr. Jacques Philippe
- *Forming Intentional Disciples* by Sherry Weddell
- *Divine Renovation* by Fr. James Mallon
- *Unbound* by Neal Lozano
- *Treasure in Heaven* by Fr. Mark Goring, CC
- *Interior Freedom* by Fr. Jacques Philippe
- *Into Your Hands, Father: Abandoning Ourselves to the God Who Loves Us* by Wilfred Stinnsion
- *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward* by Ralph Martin



We got to know Msgr. Greg when he was most helpful during a very difficult time in our lives 14 years ago. We like to think that we also became friends at that time.
 - Victoria & Alex Bubler
 (photo left)



I feel so blessed to have had you as my pastor for 12 years. You always seemed to find time for everybody. For me it was something special to have 4 generations of family sharing a pew on Sundays and listening to your wonderful sermons. I wish you all the best in this new phase of your priestly journey. - P.O. Magee



In our interactions with Monsignor over the years, we remember his joyful dedication and his loving encouragement, which usually led to a call to more intentionality in our faith life. And this has made a real difference for us. So thank you, Monsignor. We are very grateful and feel blessed. So, to you we say, quoting your homily at [our recent family] wedding, "Go, do something beautiful for the world," at your new parish!
 - Glen & Sharon Goh



With certain people, you just feel connected and at home. Monsignor is one of those people for us. Over the last 15 years, our relationship has grown into a cherished friendship. He has helped and supported us through the most difficult circumstances and rejoiced with us in our happy moments. His wisdom, which we have turned to countless times, has been a real source of support and comfort for us. And, of course, let's not forget Monsignor's gift of conversation — he can talk about anything and everything — the perfect dinner companion! If only he could stay awake past 9pm, we could have enjoyed him even more. We will miss your daily presence, but wish you all things wonderful at Holy Name (go and spoil them too!).
 - The Bitelli Family



One thing I will say about Msgr. Smith is that he is very persuasive. When he was looking to form a new Parish Pastoral Council a number of years ago he called me and asked me to be on the council and to be the secretary. I told him I had never been a secretary in my life. A few weeks later he called me again and said, "OK Fran — let's go!" And for six years I was the secretary for the PPC. It cost me the purchase of a laptop and it gave me the chance to meet lots of wonderful people in the parish. It is very hard to say "no" to Msgr. Smith.
 - Fran Hodgkins



IT'S A FINE LIFE

FAREWELL FROM MSGR. SMITH



As I look back on more than 15 years as pastor of this irresistible

parish, one thing stands out more than any other — how little our many accomplishments depended on me.

False humility? Far from it — my biggest boast is how much each and every success depended on others.

What do you most admire about the changes we have seen at Christ the Redeemer? The growth of Alpha and Faith Studies — the welcoming spaces and attitudes? Formation programs and Bible studies — or the enhancements of the church and sanctuary?

Then there's our unforgettable sponsorship of large refugee families and the support of a long list of exceptionally worthy causes from your sacrificial Project Advance donations.

How about my personal favourite — Water in the Desert, with its powerful testimonies and vibrant music?

With all of these examples of growth and change, the credit belongs mostly to others who put their talents to work in order to build up the parish — and God's Kingdom — including those who prayed and offered up their sufferings.

And that makes me very proud. Proud that together we listened to the Holy Spirit calling women and men to dedicated service of the parish. Proud that we built a core team of humble yet gifted servant leaders. Proud that we've become a model for shared responsibility in the Church.

The natural progression of leadership, according to John

Maxwell's book *The 5 Levels of Leadership*, is as follows: achievement comes when you do great things by yourself, success comes when you empower others to do great things for you, significance comes from developing leaders to do great things with you, and legacy comes when you put leaders in a position to do great things without you.

I'm confident that we've reached the "legacy" stage, with great people doing great things all the time at Christ the Redeemer. My prayer is not that this will continue, for surely it will, but that more and more parishioners find the joys of generous engagement in parish life and of service to their brothers and sisters.

If you see my tears as I depart, as surely you will, know that they are tears not of sorrow but of gratitude. Gratitude to God, but also to each of you who, by sharing your time, talent, and treasure with such astonishing generosity, helped me lead by following you.

- Msgr. Gregory N. Smith





CHRIST THE REDEEMER PARISH
599 KEITH ROAD
WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7T 1L8

CONTACT US:
604-922-1371
OFFICE@CTRWESTVAN.CA

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES:

SUNDAY 9:00 AM
SUNDAY 11:00 AM
SUNDAY 5:00 PM

WEEKDAY MASSES:

MONDAY 8:15 AM
TUESDAY 8:15 AM
WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM
THURSDAY 8:15 AM
FRIDAY 8:15 AM
SATURDAY 9:00 AM

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 9:00 AM

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