

CERF



Fr. David Schalk serves as Pastor at Christ the King Catholic Church, located on Livingston Avenue in Columbus, Ohio. Christ the King Church is rich in diversity and strives to build the Kingdom of God, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through liturgy, prayer, and works of justice and mercy. Christ the King is blessed with many immigrant families in its parish, and many of its parishioners work in the service or hospitality industry. Those industries were hit hard by the recent pandemic. As a result, many of Christ the King's parishioners lost their jobs and were finding it hard to make ends meet, to pay their rent, or even to buy food.

In response to the pandemic, Dan Kurth, VP of Grants and Community Impact at The Catholic Foundation had reached out to the parishes in our Diocese and asked how the Foundation could help, specifically highlighting the newly created Catholic Emergency Response Fund. Fr. Schalk responded, and worked with The Catholic Foundation to secure a grant to meet the needs of Christ the King's parishioners. As Fr. Schalk explained, "I saw this grant to our parish from the Catholic Emergency Response Fund as the Foundation's commitment to

the poor in our community. This was The Catholic Foundation saying we are concerned with the marginalized and those on the peripheries, as Pope Francis likes to say. That was very encouraging to me. They are putting their money where their mouth is and if there was ever a time to lift up our neighbors in need, it is during the pandemic."

As one example, the Foundation grant helped a family that is very close to the parish. The wife was cleaning hotels when the pandemic hit and was laid off for a period of time when the state went on lockdown. At the same time, the husband was working in construction, and the company had everyone quarantine early on in March. Using the Foundation grant, Christ the King was able to pay the family's rent for one month, which enabled them to stay in their home. The family viewed this as a sign of God's faithfulness, telling Fr. Schalk that they had prayed, and God provided.

Another Christ the King family had children in the Church's school and, after the pandemic hit, asked the church for a refund on their preschool payment. After



Christ the King Church

Together We Build His Kingdom: PRAYER, JUSTICE, MERCY

We invite all to join in our parish family through liturgy, prayer, and works of justice and mercy.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Christ the King Church, rich in diversity, strives to build the Kingdom of God.

talking with the family, Fr. Schalk learned that they made the refund request because they needed the money now for living expenses. It turned out that both parents were restaurant workers affected by the numerous shutdowns. Not only was the Church able to refund the family's money, but they were able to use the Foundation grant to help them financially in other ways. Father Schalk said, "These are the people who were and are continuously hit the hardest. They are the ones that have the hardest time recovering and staying on their feet. If you are vulnerable in everyday living, the pandemic put that pressure on even more."

Not only did the grant from the Foundation directly help those in the parish, but it also inspired generous giving from the parishioners themselves. One individual gave a generous donation to help start the parish's own emergency fund for current and future emergency needs. "I felt empowered and confident that we could assist folks in a variety of ways. Not just spiritually, but also financially. The work of the Foundation really jump started that giving," said Fr. Schalk. "The gesture of the grant was encouraging and inspiring. How are we going to come

together and make sure that people aren't left behind? The spirit that was behind it motivated me and lifted me up."

If you would like to support Christ the King Catholic Church contact Scott Hartman at 614-443-8893 or shartman@catholic-foundation.org.

