

Fr. Larry Redmond

Deacon Ray Huff

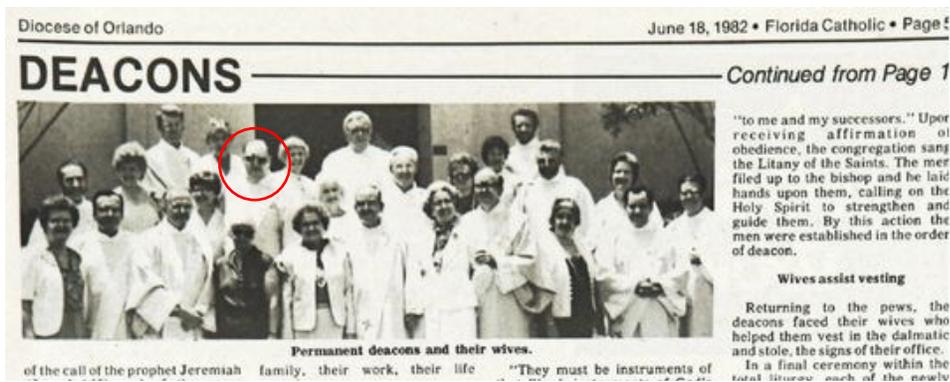
In 1978 Blessed Trinity's pastor, Fr. Larry Redmond, along with Ray Huff spearheaded an effort to meet the needs of the growing Catholic community in Marion County. This effort was called Project Growth and had the ambitious goal of raising \$500,000. This successful campaign resulted in the construction of Saint Joseph's of the Forest Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Springs Catholic Church, Blessed Trinity's Community Center, and the

purchase of land for Christ the King, which was to be a mission parish of Blessed Trinity.

Using funds from Project Growth, in the early 1980s Blessed Trinity purchased 12 ½ acres just south of Citra for Christ the King from Thomas Vincent, a parishioner.

The new community of Christ the King first celebrated Mass together at North Marion High School on October 3, 1982. Construction on a multipurpose building on the newly purchased land began in August of 1983. Interestingly, unlike the new communities of Saint Joseph's of the Forest and Our Lady of the Springs, who had help with construction from Blessed Trinity, the new community of Christ the King was able to fund the buildings entirely themselves.

On June 5, 1982, Ray Huff, who was a passionate advocate for Christ the King, was ordained a deacon by Bishop Grady as one of 13 men in the first class of deacons in the Diocese of Orlando. The first Mass at





Bishop Thomas Grady

Christ the King was held on Easter of 1983 and the church was dedicated on the Feast of Christ the King in November of 1983 by Bishop Thomas Grady. Deacon Ray Huff served at the Mass. Afterwards, a celebration was held on the grounds that included alligator tail and a Turkey Shoot. Not only did the bishop try gator tail for the first time, but he also won the Turkey Shoot!

Juliet Oschman Parish Hall was begun in 1994 thanks to a generous donation from Juliet Oschman and a five-year building fund drive. The building includes a full kitchen, seating for 320, a stage, and two classrooms.

The hall has been the site of many celebrations, retreats, religious education programs, Christ the King's renowned Fish Fry, and after-Mass fellowship. After the hall was constructed the original multi-purpose building was renovated to serve exclusively as the church. In November of 1999 the church was rededicated. Fr. Stephen Phillips presided and concelebrated the mass with the Fr. James Hoge. Deacon Jim Boerstler and Deacon Harold Timmis served.



In 2009 a building on the property that had served as a recreation center was renovated through the generous donation of a parishioner, Edward Hudson. The building was enlarged and a porch, a garage, and a bath were added. This house now serves as a rectory.

The leaders of the various ministries, together with Father Pat Sheedy, pastor of Blessed Trinity and Deacon Steve Floyd meet every two months. All matters dealing with Christ the King ministries and buildings are discussed and future plans are detailed.



Fr. Stradomski

Deacon Antonio Torres

Christ the King is small but vibrant. Fr. Joseph Maniangat and Fr. Zbigniew Stradomski, along with Deacon Antonio Torres and Deacon Steve Floyd, serve both the Hispanic and English speaking communities. Ministries include religious education, Brothers Keeper, ministry to the sick, Legion of Mary, Knights of Columbus, a soup kitchen, a prison ministry, as well as many others. If you find yourself in the Citra area, stop in and experience Christ the King's hospitality, weekend masses are Saturday at 7 p.m. in Spanish and Sunday at 10:15 a.m. in English.