

My Fellow Disciples,

Many of you have heard me tell the story of Cardinal Cupich asking the parents and grandparents of Confirmation candidates a thought-provoking question, “Are you the last generation of Catholics in your family and in your parish?”. I ask you to consider this question again. A recent report indicates that some of the most esteemed theological institutions and seminaries, with centuries of presence in the U.S.A., are now closing. Cardinal Cupich’s *Renew My Church Initiative* is addressing this decline and is calling us to look at other ways we can respond to Jesus’ invitation to come and follow Him. It is through following Jesus that we truly help one another.



Personally, the times that I have most felt the presence of the Lord in our parish are through vibrant relationships when people come together to help those who are going through a difficult time. It is in this coming together where I witness our greatest discipleship. It is with this intention that we are launching a new pastoral program called ***Community for the Kingdom***. This is not just a new ministry with St. Joseph Catholic Church, but a new way of being church.

***Community for the Kingdom*** is an invitation to make the dynamics of the Blessed Trinity a reality in our daily lives. The Father is the creator of the relationship, the Son the healer and restorer of relationship, and the Holy Spirit the builder of compassionate community—God’s creative agent in the world, God’s love in action. We will gather in small groups, in homes to share friendship, faith and reflections, and to strengthen our relationship with Christ and each other, while building compassionate communities to bring about the Kingdom of God.

We are all welcome to join or form a community. I encourage you to join us in this journey. The groups are typically composed of 8-12 people and usually meet in the home at least once a month to listen to the Word of God, reflect on how it relates to our lives and how it calls us to respond with compassion. The notable emphasis here is the call to action. How do we take our faith and let it demonstrate God’s transformational love in action?

I encourage you to consider joining a group. I have faith this will deepen our relationships within our community. Groups are forming now so please click the link below to sign up today. We would like to have all registrations submitted by November 1, 2017.

With gratitude for your discipleship,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. John Trout".

Fr. John Trout



Community for the Kingdom  
St. Joseph Catholic Church

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFTK2018STJOSEPH>