

TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation

March 2016



Dear Friends,

Pope Francis has proclaimed this to be a Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Jesus' Resurrection is the triumph of God's mercy, and brings us new life and hope. His victory over sin and death is indeed cause for celebration for us all.

During Lent, I dedicated myself to ensuring our children will always have the opportunity to avail themselves of a quality, Catholic education. Conversations at meetings and gatherings have reminded me of the importance of our Catholic schools, as well as the many ministries of our local Church. It is with great joy that I am able to share that our campaign will ensure scholarships, faith formation and strong parishes for generations to come.

To Teach Who Christ Is has now raised more than \$250 million toward our \$350 million goal. The support and generosity of so many is a demonstration of our commitment to a vital future. Our ongoing success is a direct result of your efforts, and for this I am grateful.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones as together we celebrate the joy of the Resurrection.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Blase J. Cupich*

Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

At Most Blessed Trinity Parish, 'God has sent *To Teach Who Christ Is* to help us'



Most Blessed Trinity Parish will direct funds to Most Blessed Trinity Academy through the Generational Fund.

To Teach Who Christ Is "awakens that spirit in us of giving and doing God's will," says Elizabeth Morales-Pacheco, co-chair of the campaign at Most Blessed Trinity Parish in Waukegan.

"We were all just here, asleep, living our lives," she explains. "This whole project amazes me. I'm in a community of believers."

Most Blessed Trinity is already at 35 percent of its campaign goal, but has set an enhanced goal of \$2 million so \$1.486 million will remain at the parish for local needs. The parish was officially created in 2009 through a merger of Holy Family and Immaculate Conception in Waukegan and Queen of Peace in North Chicago, and parishioners continue to worship at the three sites.

"This campaign is important to me because it brings us together for a common purpose, that is, *to teach who Christ is*," says Father Jacque Beltran, pastor. "At the same time, this campaign enables us to commit to our mission of evangelization, which is the spread of the Good News of Salvation in Christ Jesus."

Continued on page 2

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
(312) 534-8500
www.toteachwhochristis.org
www.ensenarquienes Cristo.org



The parish will dedicate funds to facility projects at all three of its sites, such as increasing the narthex and lobby at Holy Family, replacing the roof at Immaculate Conception, and installing a fire safety system and repair the parking lot at Queen of Peace.

But the largest portion of Most Blessed Trinity's campaign funds will be invested in its Generational Fund. The parish relies on this fund for long-term needs, and plans to allocate money raised through *To Teach Who Christ Is* to religious education programs, Most Blessed Trinity Academy, community social service programs, and renovations required to the restrooms and boiler systems at all three churches.

Parishioners realize that their faith home has major facility issues and ministries in need of help as well, Elizabeth says, which has helped when Father Beltran and the Campaign Executive Committee have asked for leadership gifts. In addition, committee members pledged their own sacrificial gifts before asking other for their support, which was "encouraging and motivating to our parishioners."

"Our parish has been through a lot," she adds. "It was really hard to bring us to where we are now, and we don't want to lose that."

Although she grew up in the parish, Elizabeth became actively involved in 2008. She served the youth group, and as a lector and Eucharistic minister, and was involved with the parish radio show before becoming a member of the parish council two years ago. She and her husband (and campaign co-chair), Marlon Pacheco, met at Most Blessed Trinity, and he serves as the coordinator of religious education.

"We want to serve the Church, and we want to do it in a way where we're giving back," she says. "We've received so much from the Church."

Marlon has been at the parish since arriving in the United States from Honduras in 2003, and his involvement began through youth ministry. "It was a wonderful place to find real friends and family to walk with me in my daily life," he says, which is why he now wants to ensure future generations have the same access to the parish that he did.

"God has sent *To Teach Who Christ Is* to help us," Marlon says. "It has opened our eyes to what is possible if we come together."

Most Blessed Trinity has 750 students in its religious education program this year, and has had as many as 1,400 in the past. Marlon sees the campaign as crucial to ensuring that the parish's young people, from children to teenagers, stay involved and grow up to be active in the Church.

"If we don't invest in them, we will face some challenges other parishes are going through with empty pews," he says.

Not only is Most Blessed Trinity off to a strong start toward making its goal, the parish saw 32 new families at its volunteer orientation in February.

"I hope and pray that, through this campaign, we will learn more to appreciate the spirituality of stewardship — to cultivate the culture of giving — in light with our mission of evangelization," Father Beltran says. "I pray that we may realize through this campaign that 'God's generosity can never be outdone!'" †

VOLUNTEER PROFILE | Donna Perisee McFarlane



As a member of both the building and grounds committee and Campaign Executive Committee at St. Ambrose in Chicago, Donna Perisee McFarlane is well aware of her parish's needs — and the importance of *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

"I see the aging and wear and tear issues quite frequently and understand the cost of repairs," Donna says. "I am endeared to my church home of 34 years and my parish community."

St. Ambrose has raised 82 percent of its \$250,000 campaign goal, and will retain \$150,000 if it meets goal. A new church sign has already been installed, and the parish also plans to use campaign funds to repair damaged portions of the church roof and ceiling as well as transform the school basement into a parish center.

"*To Teach Who Christ Is* will help make some of my dreams come true," Donna says. "We have a vested interest to attract new parishioners and to use the facilities we have onsite for parish events."

She sees value in the shared ministries the campaign is supporting across the Archdiocese of Chicago, too. "It is important that we continue to be able to provide a good, quality Catholic education to students, and also to reduce the burden of attempting to finance the entire repair cost of aging facilities," she says.

Donna has been inspiring her fellow parishioners to participate by letting them know that she has personally pledged her gift, and elaborating on how these projects will benefit the St. Ambrose community. She credits St. Ambrose's success to the love parishioners have for their Church and the parish, and their prayerful consideration of what success will bring.

"Our Heavenly Father always provides for each of us, in His own way," she says. †

CAMPAIGN UPDATE: Wave V

The 69 parishes participating in Wave V are off to a great start, having already raised 25 percent of the wave's \$41.575 million goal. Please pray for the following pastors and parishes as they officially kick off their efforts this month!

Father Ismael Sandoval, Blessed Sacrament, Chicago
Father Donatus Chris Mgbeajuo, Corpus Christi, Chicago
Father Timothy R. Fiala, Divine Providence, Westchester
Father James A. Heneghan, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Chicago
Father Michael A. Nacius, Infant Jesus of Prague, Flossmoor
Father Tu Jin Paul Kim, Korean Martyrs, Chicago
Father Sergio De La Torre-Carrillo, Mary, Queen of Heaven, Cicero
Father Gerald T. Gunderson, Mary, Seat of Wisdom, Park Ridge
Father Jacque Beltran, Most Blessed Trinity, Waukegan
Father Joseph Altman, Nativity of Our Lord, Chicago
Father Nestor Saenz, Our Lady of Fatima, Chicago
Father Nicholas R. Desmond, Our Lady of Mercy, Chicago
Father Wayne A. Svida, Our Lady of the Ridge, Chicago Ridge
Father David Straub, Queen of the Rosary, Elk Grove Village
Father Francisco Ortega, Sacred Heart, Melrose Park
Father Stephen Bedenikovic, Sacred Heart Croatian, Chicago
Father Lawrence R. Dowling, St. Agatha, Chicago
Father John S. Siemianowski, St. Agnes, Chicago Heights
Father John Owusu-Achiaw, St. Ambrose, Chicago
Father Dennis M. Zalecki, St. Anastasia, Waukegan
Father Jacek Dada, St. Andrew the Apostle, Calumet City
Father Mark Krylowicz, St. Anthony, Chicago
Father Hernan Cuevas Contreras, St. Athanasius, Evanston
Father Robert G. Casey, St. Barbara, Brookfield
Father Wojciech Marat, St. Barbara, Chicago
Father Norman Moran-Rosero, St. Basil (Visitation), Chicago
Father Stan Kuca, St. Bernardine, Forest Park
Father Robert J. Roll, St. Bride, Chicago
Father Dennis A. Ziomek, St. Catherine of Alexandria, Oak Lawn
Father Krzysztof Paluch, St. Christopher, Midlothian
Monsignor Peter Galek, St. Colette, Rolling Meadows
Father Matthew S. O'Donnell, St. Columbanus, Chicago
Father Thaddeus Dzieszko, St. Constance, Chicago
Father Darrio L. Boscutti, St. Cyprian, River Grove
Father Joseph T. Noonan, St. Damian, Oak Forest

Father William T. Corcoran, St. Elizabeth Seton, Tinley Park
Father Gregory A. Rom, St. Felicitas, Chicago
Father Robert P. Marchwiany, St. Florian, Chicago
Father Tim O'Malley, St. Genevieve, Chicago
Father Kenneth J. Fleck, St. George, Tinley Park
Father Lawrence J. Malcolm, St. Gerald, Oak Lawn
Father John P. Chrzan, St. Gilbert, Grayslake
Father Terrance M. Johnson, St. Irenaeus, Park Forest
Father Robert Sprott, St. James (Wabash Avenue), Chicago
Father Thomas R. Koys, St. James at Sag Bridge, Lemont
Father Robert J. Gilbert, St. Joachim, Chicago
Father Karol Tybor, St. John, Glenwood
Father Robert J. Kyfes, St. Joseph, Homewood
Father Robert Stuglik, St. Joseph, Summit Argo
Father Louis Tylka, St. Julie Billiart, Tinley Park
Father John S. Siemianowski, St. Kieran, Chicago Heights
Father Mark J. Walter, St. Linus, Oak Lawn
Father Harold B. Stanger, St. Marcelline, Schaumburg
Father Martin Ibarra, St. Mark, Chicago
Father Patrick G. Cecil, St. Mary of the Woods, Chicago
Father Mariusz Nawalaniec, St. Mary Queen of the Apostles, Riverdale
Father Ted Lawson, St. Michael (Old Town), Chicago
Father Andrew Torma, St. Michael (South Shore Drive), Chicago
Father Anthony J. Brankin, St. Odilo, Berwyn
Father Bronislaw Chmiel, St. Pancratius, Chicago
Father Michael A. Wulsch, St. Peter, Skokie
Father Walter J. Takuski, St. Peter Damian, Bartlett
Father Kurt F. Hartrich, St. Peter's in the Loop, Chicago
Father Tadeusz Olzacki, St. Rosalie, Harwood Heights
Father Alfredo Salera, St. Simon the Apostle, Chicago
Father Samson Ngatia Mukundi, St. Sylvester, Chicago
Father Thaddeus J. Bojczuk, St. Symphorosa, Chicago
Father Gene J. Dyer, St. Thecla, Chicago
Father Robert J. Lojek, St. William, Elmwood Park



Planning for success

Father Jacek Dada and Campaign Executive Committee members at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish gave *To Teach Who Christ Is* a thumbs up at a recent meeting. The Calumet City parish has already raised 53 percent of its \$400,000 goal.

Check out *To Teach Who Christ Is* on Facebook and Twitter for more parish photos and updates!



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total raised to date: \$253,841,540

Percent of Goal: 72.5%

Cash received to date: \$78,454,562

Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000

Raised to date: \$132,703,930

Number of gifts: 41,825

Percent of goal: 53%

Cash received: \$50,933,289

Major gift goal: \$100,000,000

Raised to date: \$121,137,609

Number of gifts: 57

Percent of goal: 121.1%

Cash received: \$27,521,273

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

Connect with *To Teach Who Christ Is*



@toteachcampaign



www.facebook.com/toteachcampaign