



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

August 2020

Archdiocese of Chicago School Reopening Plan

With many of the campaign scholarship recipients returning to school this fall, we wanted to share the Archdiocese of Chicago's Reopening with Trust: A Planning Framework for the 2020/21 School Year.

Within the document, the Office of Catholic Schools, has outlined many of the frequently asked questions from parents about the reopening plan. The categories include health and safety, infection protocols, academics and programming, and tuition. The School Reopening Plan contains general guidance for schools and each school must apply these guidelines for their own unique school setting.

Our Catholic schools have a long history of providing a top-quality Catholic education. We look forward to continuing that education in the school year to come. To view the full plan, please visit schools.archchicago.org.



Donor Profile: Dr. Jim and Nancy Kuciensk

Dr. Jim and Nancy Kuciensk have been married for 50 years and involved parishioners at Queen of All Saints Parish, located at 6280 North Sauganash Avenue in Chicago, for the past 40 years. In addition, they are dedicated donors to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign and we were grateful to get the opportunity to connect with Jim to learn more about their faith journey and commitment to the campaign.



Jim and Nancy Kuciensk have been parishioners of Queen of All Saints in Chicago for 40 years.

Please tell us more about your faith journey and background.

Both Nancy and I grew up in northwest side of Chicago and we have two children, Kathryn and Andrew. At the beginning of our marriage, we attended St. Cornelius Church, located at 5430 West Foster Avenue in Chicago, and after about ten years, became parishioners at Queen of All Saints Parish where I was involved with the parish council and Christian Family Movement.

Nancy is a talented woman who has a bachelor's in elementary education and master's degree in speech and language therapy, and I have a bachelor's degree in philosophy, a master's degree in guidance and counseling, and a doctorate in educational administration. We both had careers in schooling; Nancy was a speech therapist in several elementary schools and I taught math and science and retired as a superintendent.

A major part of my faith journey was my time being a Benedictine Monk at Marmion Academy in Aurora. I lived there and absolutely enjoyed it. The monks work was to run the boys high school academy, Marmion Academy.

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How the Campaign Team Is Navigating Through the Pandemic

While our daily interactions with donors and parishes has turned virtual, our continued connection remains important.

We have been working with a handful of parishes to support them with offertories and navigating online giving. In addition, we're providing them with resources to continue reaching out to their parishioners and encouraging them to stay connected to their ministry.

Cardinal Cupich has raised approximately \$7.5 million for a COVID-19 relief fund to financially support several ministries, including providing food for those in need and rent relief.

COVID-19 Update: Support Your Parish and the COVID-19 Relief Fund

Please visit archchicago.org/support to support parish offertory, the COVID-19 Relief Fund or both as your means allow. Your generosity is needed now more than ever.

Thank you for your support.

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Can you please reflect on your time as a parishioner at your Queen of All Saints Parish.

Every single one of the priests we've had at Queen of All Saints over the years has been an outstanding leader and we've been more than happy to be a part of such a strong community. We try to connect with other parishioners often and build relationships with the priests to make them feel welcome and be proactive in our involvement with the parish. As mentioned above, we have been involved with different councils, programs and fundraisers.

Why did you choose to get involved with the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign?

Our Church is going through some difficult times right now with a lack of interest in religion, attendance and vocations decreasing, etc., and we wanted to be a part of spreading the Gospel and supporting a campaign that has such a great mission and provides many opportunities for the future of the Church.

What element of your parish or the archdiocesan case statement spoke to you?

Three or four years ago, Nancy and I attended the campaign sessions with Bishop Hicks and Cardinal Cupich. I was so impressed by the way the campaign was developed and I liked that it had the component of renewing the Church and getting more people involved. I was also happy to witness the cardinal's desire and enthusiasm to invigorate the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Can you please explain why the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign is so important to you?

It's created another avenue for us to be involved with Queen of All Saints and the archdiocese, and we are grateful for the opportunity to give back to the Church.

To learn more about Queen of All Saints, please visit qasparish.org.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$425,184,521*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$259,570,307

Percent Paid to Date: 74%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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