

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

June 2021

The End of the 2020/21 School Year

With the 2020/21 school year coming to a close, we'd like to take a moment to recognize our Chicago Catholic Schools. This year has been filled with change, adapting and trusting the Lord, and the teachers, staff and students persevered and worked together through all of the hills and valleys of the past several months. We give you all the utmost praise for charging forward through the challenging times and keeping the safety and health of others a priority.

To our gracious donors, your support of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign gave hundreds of students the opportunity to attend or continue attending Catholic school through both the Caritas Scholarship and Phoenix Scholarship. Many families struggled this year financially and it's due to your generosity their sons and daughters were able to receive quality education and deepen their faith.

We pray you all have a wonderful start to the summer. May God bless you all.



St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Continues to Focus on Faith Formation within Parish and Local Community



Parishioners of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta have greatly benefited from the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign and the faith formation programs that were created because of funding.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta is a unified community located in the heart of Chicago's Chinatown and Bridgeport neighborhoods. The parish is made up of two worship sites through the Renew My Church process, and St. Barbara Church and St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church are now one parish. The parish includes a number of local groups like the Cantonese Group, SMI Club, St. Rocco Society, Mandarin Group and Indonesian Group. Catering to a variety of regions and ethnic affiliations, the parish offers Mass in English, Cantonese, Mandarin and Indonesian and is a true demonstration of diversity in the Catholic faith right here in Chicago.

In 2017, St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church was featured in the campaign newsletter, which noted that the parish had exceeded its *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign goal by 151 percent. The parish used funds raised to upgrade its parish website with design and bilingual capabilities,

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and develop a formation series titled Catholicism 101, which was held for parishioners to brush up on catechesis and address what it means to be a Catholic.

“Since we last connected in 2017, we have been able to offer Catholicism 201 (focusing on missionary discipleship) and Catholicism 301 (focusing on Chinese martyrs),” said Fr. Li, priest at St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. “Both 201 and 301 were well-attended and received. In addition, we have enhanced our faith formation with regular retreats and pilgrimages. Parishioners and friends have benefited so much from these spiritual opportunities.”

With the offered faith formation series and resources, parishioners have been equipped and empowered to serve and evangelize. Corporal works of mercy, such as regularly serving in food pantry and evangelization, have increased, and more people in the community have come to believe in Jesus each year. Fr. Li noted that at this year’s Easter Vigil, the parish joyfully welcomed eight new people into the Catholic Church.

“The mission of the parish entrusted by Jesus Christ is ongoing,” said Fr. Li. “With Renew My Church, our unified parish has so much to be grateful for. We have a wonderful mission to carry on.”

Fr. Li and the rest of the parish are aware of many more people in the community who are in need of hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ. The parish plans to continue to find new and creative ways to reach out and be of service to their community.

To learn more about St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish, please visit smtc.archchicago.org.

Constantino Family, in the Midst of Healing from the Pandemic, Finds Hope Through Scholarship Support

The Constantino family has lived in the Pilsen neighborhood for over 20 years. All five family members were born and raised in Chicago, and Becky Constantino, mother of Isaac and Isaiah Constantino, attended St. Ann School in Chicago when she was younger. Isaac and Isaiah currently attend St. Ann School and are recipients of the Caritas Scholarship.



Pictured above is the Constantino family. Both Isaac and Isaiah are recipients of the Caritas Scholarship.

“Isaac and Isaiah’s school experience has been great,” said Becky. “They love their teachers and have a lot of friends. Catholic education has greatly impacted my children’s lives. Not only are they getting a great education, but they are also familiar with their Catholic faith too.”

The Constantino family applied for the Caritas Scholarship online and are grateful for the significant amount of help they received.

“When the pandemic hit, a lot of our earnings were cut and work slowed down tremendously,” Becky said. “The Caritas Scholarship gave us the hope and help we needed during a difficult time. We are so thankful to do the donors of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign for funding this tremendous scholarship.”

St. Ann School is located at 2211 West 18th Place in Chicago. To learn more about the school, please visit stanncrusaders.org.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$418,572,876*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 119%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$271,475,060

Percent Paid to Date: 77%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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