

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

April 2021

Archdiocese COVID-19 Relief Fund

With millions of people around the world having to sacrifice and adapt to the challenges the pandemic has brought, we continue to look for ways to support those in need.

In this month's newsletter, we highlight a family and parish that have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are pleased to share their stories and expressions of gratitude for the campaign and its donors.

The Archdiocese of Chicago in partnership with Catholic Charities launched the COVID-19 Relief Fund to support individuals and communities impacted by COVID-19 to meet basic, financial, and spiritual needs. Donations to the fund provide:

- Food, shelter and other basic needs through Catholic Charities
- Scholarships and emergency tuition assistance
- Emergency parish-based ministries serving COVID-19 affected communities
- Domestic violence prevention through Catholic Charities
- School gratitude fund

To donate to the COVID-19 Relief Fund, please visit archchicago.org/coronavirus/donate. We pray you all had a blessed Easter, and thank you for your ongoing support of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

Lema Family Receives Caritas Scholarship and Sends Two Youngest Children to St. Gall School

Fredy Lema immigrated from Ecuador and met his wife, Faviola, here in the United States. Fredy and Faviola have four kids, ages 20, 16, 14 and 10. Their two oldest children attended/attend public school and their two youngest are students at St. Gall School, located at 5515 S. Sawyer Avenue in Chicago. Their son, Adrian is a Caritas Scholarship recipient.



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“Adrian is a good student who enjoys attending school,” said Fredy. “Adrian enjoys the focus on faith and likes being a part of a school that has an association with a parish. He likes going to Mass on Sunday and loves when he receives praise from his teachers.”

The Lemas are parishioners at St. Gall Church and when Faviola started discussing some concerns she had with public school with another mom whose children attend St. Gall, she learned about the various scholarships and financial aid options available. This motivated Faviola to contact the school and learn more about how to apply for scholarships. Receiving the Caritas Scholarship made tuition more affordable for the family.

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“We are extremely grateful that there are people in the world with big hearts who donate to this campaign so our kids can get a great education,” said Fredy. “May God continue to bless them and protect them always.”

Both Fredy and Faviola appreciate St. Gall's focus on faith and that Adrian is learning that God is at the center of everything. They also admire that he's learning about Catholic beliefs while also learning to respect other beliefs. The Lemas believe he wouldn't receive these teachings at public school.

Unfortunately, the Lema family was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and were dealt with financial hardships because of it.

“I am the only one who works to support the household and when the pandemic began, the restaurant I worked at shut down for a month,” said Fredy. “The owner received assistance and was able to continue paying the staff for the first month. We were also able to get some help from charities and organizations to survive. When the restaurant re-opened, my hours were reduced.”

Fredy noted things are getting better and is hopeful their family has managed to get through the worst parts of the pandemic. With many families in similar situations, the Archdiocese of Chicago scholarships are more important now than ever before. We thank you for your ongoing generosity.



Update on Old St. Mary's Petermann Parish Center

Old St. Mary's, founded in 1833 and located at 1500 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago, is the oldest parish in Chicago. Served by the Paulist Fathers since 1903, the parish continues to develop its mission through their principles and the Renew My Church process with their grouping partners.

“*To Teach Who Christ Is* was a significant project for the parish that garnered tremendous support from parishioners for the Petermann Parish Center,” said Fr. Brad Schoeberle, priest at Old St. Mary's. “The parish was grateful for the campaign's assistance to not just our parish and school, but many other parishes and schools in the archdiocese.”



Pictured above is the Petermann Parish Center at Old St. Mary's Church in Chicago.

Since its dedication in 2016, the Petermann Parish Center has been well-utilized for ministries and outreach programs. It has also been the flexible space the parish had hoped for especially when Old St. Mary's had to adapt to changes at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The parish center remained an important resource all of last year.

“The pandemic impacted everything,” said Fr. Brad. “Obviously, all our regular meetings, outreach and social activities were put on hold. Now that our school has reached capacity, we were able to transform the rooms of the parish center into classrooms that allowed for social distancing and additional educational space.”

Making these adjustments did require some updates to infrastructure and special equipment, but the upgrade will continue to serve the parish well moving forward and enable Old St. Mary's to return to pre-COVID formatting.

“While we do not know what the future holds, we do know that our parish center has been a wonderful addition to Old St. Mary's and the community,” said Fr. Brad. “*To Teach Who Christ Is* inspired us to see needs across the archdiocese and the ability we have to minister by working together. We will continue to adapt to future needs and look forward to the parish center brimming with new activity once again.”

To learn more about Old St. Mary's Church, please visit oldstmarys.com.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$424,010,441*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$269,726,198

Percent Paid to Date: 77%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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