



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

January 2021

Our Focus in 2021

With the active phase of the campaign behind us, the campaign team will continue to focus on the redemption of pledges and stewardship of donors. We will continue to share the experiences of parishes and students, and the impact the campaign has on those involved with the campaign.

In the coming months, a priority for our team is to focus on our scholarship efforts. Now, more than ever, families will depend on scholarships funded by the campaign to help keep their children in Catholic schools.

In addition, we are working to update the *To Teach Who Christ Is* impact report. We hope to showcase overall campaign funds, scholarship funds, and other areas of impact. This report will be distributed to parishes and major donors.

Lastly, we held a webinar last year on best practices and how to continue keeping donors engaged. We are happy to report that we will be hosting something similar this year. Please stay tuned for more information.



St. Pius X Catholic Church Continues to be a Beacon of Hope to Stickney Community

St. Pius X Catholic Church, located at 4300 S. Oak Park Ave in Stickney, was founded in 1954 to fulfill the growing religious needs of the Stickney and Forest View communities. At its opening, members of the church were mainly of the Eastern European ethnic background, and today, the parish is a diverse community of many ethnic groups. Taking the call to holiness from St. Pius X, whose motto was, “restore all things in Christ”, St. Pius X Catholic Church offers many ministries, activities and opportunities to grow in faith and love of God, and service to others.

“We, the parish family of St. Pius X in Stickney, are called and empowered by the Spirit to continue the mission and the ministry of Jesus in the world today,” said Roberta Birmingham, parish secretary at St. Pius X. “With the gifts God has given each one of us, we strive to reach out in faith to the needs of our sisters and brothers in our parish, community and world.”



St. Pius X parish used some of their campaign funds to restore the parish's organ, a treasure to parishioners and parish staff.

After becoming involved with the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, the parish spent several months determining how to best use funding. The parish chose to refurbish their 38-year-old Berghaus pipe organ (one of the treasures of the parish), renovate several areas of church building, reduce debt and establish a religious education fund.

Continued on back



The parish received a grant from the archdiocese COVID-19 Relief Fund allowing their Family Assistance Ministry program to continue.

In order to meet their goal, the campaign committee reached out to parishioners with campaign presentations, personal calls, mailings, and through the bulletin and parish's website. To date, St. Pius X parish has completed the renovations on the organ, paid down a large portion of parish debt, and made repairs to the roof and chimney.

"St. Pius X parish continues to face challenges and maintaining our church complex is costly," said Roberta. "The campaign gave us new hope in being able to raise funds that would address our needs and move from maintenance of our facility to devoting more time and funds to our spiritual needs. St. Pius X can continue to be a welcoming beacon of hope to all who enter its doors."

St. Pius X is not only a light for their parishioners, but the greater community as well. St. Pius X Family Assistance Ministry provides food, clothing, and financial assistance to residents in the villages of Stickney and Forest View. The parish has a short-term program that assists families in need who are unable to purchase essential food items.

"Due to the pandemic, we have had to change our food distribution policy," said Roberta. "In order to consider the safety of our parishioners, volunteers and recipients, we decreased our distribution of food to once a month. Since March, our monetary and food donations decreased and we had fewer volunteers to assist our ministry even though we experienced an increase in requests due to the financial strains of the pandemic. The St. Pius X Family Assistance Ministry was blessed to receive a grant from the archdiocese COVID-19 Relief Fund. With the grant money and donations from our generous parishioners, the

Family Assistance Ministry serviced our families for Thanksgiving and Christmas."

The archdiocese grant also allowed the parish to assist families with partial rent payment, phone and electricity payments, clothing purchases and additional food purchases. The ministry has extended their regular monthly service to families as long as they are under the COVID-19 restrictions. In addition, they have set up a drive-up distribution of food and deliver to individuals who are homebound.

This past holiday season, the parish reached out to former pantry applicants and families in Stickney and Forest View who are in need, and provided them with a turkey dinner for their family as well as a gift card and food items from the pantry. In the past during the Christmas season, the parish hosts a Giving Tree program where gift requests are placed on a tree and parishioners choose families and purchase gifts that are requested. This year, in order to consider the safety of all, they hosted a Christmas Giving Basket program. Parishioners filled baskets with gift cards that were given to the families so parents were able to purchase a Christmas gift of choice for their child. The children also received a Christmas stocking filled with snacks and toys.

"We thank the Lord for the generosity of so many," said Roberta. "Their donations have enabled our ministry to continue servicing to those in need especially during the pandemic."

To learn more about St. Pius X, please visit stpiusxstickney.org. To learn more or support your parish offertory or the COVID-19 Relief Fund, please visit archchicago.org/support.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$424,437,176*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$266,322,271

Percent Paid to Date: 76%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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