

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation February 2019

Celebrating Catholic Education

Two months into the new year, and we've already celebrated one of the biggest components of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign: Catholic education.

Our schools recognized National Schools Week from Jan. 27 – Feb. 2, with students and staff keeping this year's theme top of mind: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed. Hundreds of schools throughout Cook and Lake County commemorated the week with several activities, including Masses, service projects, community appreciation efforts, open houses, talent shows, pep rallies, and guest speakers. Every event and activity honored the parents, family members and guardians who provide students with the opportunity to attend Catholic schools.

These celebrations and more would not be made possible without the generosity of the donors of this campaign. Your support allows us to strengthen our current programs and initiatives, and gives us the opportunity to create new programs and resources. The donations you've made give our students high-quality education and a chance to celebrate accomplishments and success.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for continuing to support our campaign and the programs that benefit our schools. We look forward to working with students and staff throughout the remainder of the campaign and celebrating Catholic education for years to come. May you all have a blessed February.

To stay up-to-date on news and events going on at our schools, please visit schools.archchicago.org.

A Q&A with the AOC's Newest Major Gift Officer

With a strong background in fundraising, Denise Ashurst is one of the Stewardship and Development department's most recent hires, dedicating her time to supporting the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign and its donors. Please see below for a Q&A with Denise, and join us in welcoming our newest member of the team.



Pictured above are the archdiocese's major gift officers. From left to right: Deacon Gregory Vogt, Marguerite Zappa, Jose Pinones, Denise Ashurst and Patrick Lynch. Not pictured: Cynthia Manzo.

Can you please describe your background?

Much of my life has been devoted to gaining financial and public support for critical causes and fighting for change on behalf of Chicago communities in need. Prior to joining the Archdiocese of Chicago, I worked with the Shedd Aquarium, Lincoln Park Zoo, LEARN Charter School, and the Chicago Park District raising funds to support their strategic initiatives.

What are your main responsibilities as a major gift officer?

As a major gift officer, my primary responsibility is to develop and build relationships with benefactors who have the capacity and affinity to donate to the Archdiocese of Chicago. Most of my time is spent providing stewardship to the archdiocese's generous benefactors. I know benefactors have many opportunities to donate to many different non-profits, so I make sure that every donor I work with knows how their donation dollars are spent and how truly grateful we are for their gift.

Continued on back

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What has been your greatest experience so far being a part of the Major Gift team?

My greatest joy working at the Archdiocese of Chicago has been calling Tax Credit Scholarship donors who donated in 2018 to thank them for their amazing gift and to tell them as a result of their donation, 3,100 students in the archdiocese were able to receive a Catholic education. As a volunteer first grade religious education teacher, I see first hand how important Catholic education is in developing “Men and Women for Others.”

What have you and the team been working on so far, and what do you plan to work on the rest of this year?

Currently, our team is working on raising funds for the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship program. The Tax Credit Scholarship program allows Illinois Tax Payers to make a gift of scholarships for in-need Archdiocese of Chicago students and receive a tax credit for their 2019 Illinois income taxes. To help the program have even greater impact for the 2019–2020 school year, a group of donors agreed to pool their resources to match 2:1 any donation made to any Archdiocese of Chicago school through Feb. 28 through Empower Illinois.

Why are you thankful for To Teach Who Christ Is donors?

I am thankful for our campaign donors' hopefulness and their vision for the future. Because of each donor's generosity, the archdiocese's parishes are able to build new additions, add classrooms to schools, and provide new and enhanced formation programs for children, teens and newly married couples. The future of our Church is going to be the next generation of Catholics — our kids!

Saint James Parish of Sauk Village Continues to Raise Funds to Complete Renovations

Saint James parish, located at 22400 Torrence Ave. in Sauk Village, is a southside parish serving Cook and Will Counties, and Lake County in Indiana. Established in 1892, St. James has a rich history of supporting its community and finding ways to adapt to its flourishing parish population and school. Abiding by the words of Saint James, “be doers of the word, and not just listeners” (James 1:22), the parish is dedicated to sharing the Gospel and welcoming all.



St. James parish is continuing to raise money for the campaign and are currently making repairs to their convent.

“The priests who have served before me have developed a strong foundation, built-up of faith, dedication and an eagerness to continue growing our community,” said Father David Krolczyk, pastor at Saint James.

Being the ever-evolving parish that St. James is, they were interested in becoming a part of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign. The parish's campaign support team spent countless hours creating strategies with Major Gift Officer, Greg Vogt, and to spread word of the campaign, the parish's plans and goals were preached for weeks from the pulpit.

The parish is still in the midst of reaching its goal, but their convent renovation is under construction and on the way to becoming the future rectory. In addition, the roof is being repaired.

“With two of our goals underway, we are already witnessing the benefits of the campaign, and as time goes on, and funding becomes available, we hope to complete the rest of our plan,” said Father David. “I personally thank everyone involved in our campaign – we could not have come as far as we have without your time and dedication.”

To keep up-to-date on Saint James' parish future endeavors, please visit stjamescatholic.org.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$422,560,649*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$219,292,599

Percent Paid to Date: 62%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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