

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

August 2019

A Message from Brendan Keating Chief Development Officer

Dear Generous Donors to the Archdiocese of Chicago,

Driven by a historic outpouring of generosity, the *To Teach Who Christ Is (TTWCI)* campaign became one of the most successful fundraising programs in the history of the Catholic Church. More than 77,000 donors have pledged over \$420 million to the campaign, far exceeding the original goal of \$350 million. To date, \$215 million has been collected on the pledges, most of which are five-year pledges.

Your donations to the archdiocese are having a tremendous impact on our parishes, schools, communities, and ministries throughout Cook and Lake Counties. Your generosity has strengthened our schools and made Catholic school education possible for thousands of families. You have helped engage young people in faith formation, trained parish leaders, and much more. Your gifts will continue to enrich our local Church for generations to come.

You may have seen recent reports in the media raising questions about the financial management of the *TTWCI* campaign. We want to reassure you that your donations are being used for the purposes set forth in the campaign case statement and that your intentions have been honored.

Facts about the *TTWCI* campaign you should know include:

- Campaign funds are used only for designated campaign programs or other purposes as specified by donors.
- Campaign initiatives are funded according to donor intent and reflect the amount of funds collected thus far. This means that at any given time amounts distributed to programs can differ from the original goals for each program as a result of donor intent, timing of collections, and the mix of parish results for parish campaigns.
- Donors supported two major scholarship initiatives for Catholic school students as part of the campaign:



1. The Catholic Education Scholarship Trust (CEST) is an endowed fund that will spend between three percent and seven percent of its value annually to support scholarships in perpetuity. More than 1,800 scholarships, valued at \$2.7 million, have already been awarded from CEST, and the endowment will continue to grow and support Catholic students in perpetuity.
2. The Caritas Scholarship Fund (Caritas) was created with the input and specific direction of a small group of major donors to support Catholic students in the short term while the value of the CEST endowment grew. To date, \$18 million has been awarded from the Caritas fund to support over 10,000 scholarships.

Collectively, these two programs distribute approximately \$4 million in scholarships each year to families. In addition, as a result of the recent Illinois tax credit scholarship legislation, an additional \$13.7 million was raised last year, providing 3,650 additional scholarships.

- Several independent agencies and individuals review archdiocesan campaign finances, including the lay Archdiocesan Finance Council, the CEST Trust Board, and Deloitte.
- Campaign and administrative expenses are well within accepted benchmarks. Expenses for the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign totaled six percent of pledged funds, and the administrative costs for the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust average less than two percent per year.

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- Detailed reports on the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, CEST, and the Caritas Scholarship Fund are available on giving.archchicago.org/to-teach-who-christ-is/about-the-campaign/summary.

We are committed to providing our donors with timely and accurate campaign reports and with prompt answers to your questions. Please feel free to contact the Department of Stewardship and Development anytime at 312.534.8500 or archchicago@archchicago.org with questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the parishes, schools, and ministries of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Faithfully yours,



Brendan Keating
Chief Development Officer
Archdiocese of Chicago

PLEASE
TAKE OUR
**TO TEACH
WHO
CHRIST IS**
NEWSLETTER
SURVEY

If you haven't already, we'd greatly appreciate your participation in our newsletter survey, which can be found at toteachwhochristis.org.

Thank you in advance for your time.

St. Emily Parish Reaches Campaign Goal Within a Year

With a mission to witness the gospel message in every aspect of life, St. Emily Parish, located at 1400 East Central Road in Mount Prospect, is a vibrant and active parish with a wonderful history. The parish will be celebrating their 60th anniversary in 2020.

Reverend James Presta, head pastor at St. Emily, arrived at the parish in July 2016, which is when he was told about the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign and the parish's plans to raise funds. While Reverend James was not familiar with the campaign, he was very hopeful that it would bring many welcome improvements to the parish's spiritual life and facilities.



St. Emily has been able to use campaign funding to update bathrooms, replace kneelers and transform Sullivan Hall to accommodate the demand for student care before and after school.

"Our original goal, set by the archdiocese, was to raise \$1.6 million and we decided to raise the bar and set the goal at \$2.25 million," said Reverend James. "Within exactly one year's time, we reached our goal in money donated and pledges made. I continue to thank God for the great generosity and heartfelt support of the St. Emily parish family."

So far, St. Emily parish has been able to update restrooms and make them handicap accessible, install LED lighting throughout the parish, replace kneelers, improve the sound system and make necessary repairs to the parish organ. In addition, the parish has transformed Sullivan Hall (a part of St. Emily School) to accommodate the demand for student care before and after school.

"We also have given a portion of our pledged goal to the Archdiocese of Chicago, which will benefit Catholic education through scholarships and provides support for religious education and development programs," said Reverend James. "St. Emily is thrilled to be able to contribute to the future of the Church."

The parish plans to use future funding on installing air conditioning and flooring throughout the school building, updating the church and school's boilers, and build their savings.

"I am so grateful for the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign because it allowed our parish to accomplish projects that had been on hold for so long," said Reverend James. "So many people commented that they could visibly see where their money was going. It gave the parishioners of St. Emily a great deal of pride and satisfaction to see the facelift given to the parish because of the funds generated by the campaign."

To learn more about St. Emily parish, please visit stemily.org.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$423,269,968*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$233,603,871

Percent Paid to Date: 66%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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