



TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

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

July 2014

Dear Friends,

The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign is critical to the mission of the Church, and supporting parishes, Catholic education and faith formation aligns with the priorities of our archbishop, Cardinal Francis George. Success in the campaign will ensure a strong future for the next generation of Chicagoland Catholics.

The critical nature of the campaign has led us to make some significant changes. In listening to pastors and lay leaders who have already conducted the campaign in their parishes, we decided to review our campaign plan and its implementation. Based on this feedback, we have altered the course of the campaign.

The most significant changes include both the timeline of the campaign's implementation in parishes and our fundraising consultants. The new timeline will slow the campaign down and allow some parishes to move their campaigns to 2016. A new fundraising consulting firm with offices in Chicago, CCS Fundraising, has been retained to provide more hands-on parish-based support. What's more, additional waves have been added with fewer parishes in each wave.

We are grateful to all those who have helped us to raise more than \$120 million toward our \$350 million goal. Your generosity and prayers will ensure we can continue *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Peter L. de Keratry, CFRE

Congregations and prayer houses praying for *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign



Early each morning, when the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago gather in their chapel for daily Mass, they pray for intentions near and far. Included in their prayers are parishes across the Archdiocese raising funds for the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

The campaign has significant meaning to the 38 sisters because of its focus on Catholic education and faith formation, said Sister Patricia Crowley, prioress.

"Most of the sisters taught all of their lives," she said, as the order operated and served in grammar schools and academies in both Illinois and Colorado. "Many also worked in parish ministry."

Prayer is an important element of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign. There is a formal prayer specifically for the campaign, which parishes are encouraged to

incorporate into their prayer routines, such as at Masses and meetings, and to publish in bulletins and on their websites. In addition, parishes are encouraged to establish campaign prayer committees and invite prayer requests from parishioners and donors.

"The Church that prays together is a stronger Church," explained Msgr. Richard Hynes, director of the Department of Parish Life and Formation and chair of the campaign's committee on prayer activities.

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WHO CHRIST IS

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In all, 18 congregations and prayer houses are praying for parishes throughout the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign. The groups are assigned new parishes for each wave of the campaign, and are currently praying for parishes participating in Wave 2.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE APPRECIATED



To Teach Who Christ Is Campaign Prayer

Almighty and ever-loving God, Your Son is the Way, the Truth and the Life. As his disciples, we follow his way, Believe his truth, and live his life.

Heavenly Father, raise up a new generation of disciples with fervor and eagerness to teach and proclaim Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the One who tells who we are, shows us how to love, and assures our salvation. Bless this Archdiocesan Campaign "To Teach Who Christ Is."

Lord God, may donors discover in themselves your gift of a generous and sacrificial spirit that flows from a love for the Church and supports her mission to teach who Christ is.

May the pattern of holiness, the Virgin Mary, Christ's mother and ours, open our hearts anew with the desire for your will to be done, through Jesus Christ, your Son and Our Lord.

Amen.

"The Church that prays together is a stronger Church."
- Msgr. Richard Hynes



CONGREGATIONS AND PRAYER HOUSES PRAYING FOR OUR SUCCESS

- Poor Clare Sisters
- Discalced Carmelite Sisters
- Focolare Movement
- Communion and Liberation
- Regnum Christi
- Ambassadors of Mary/
Pilgrim Virgin Apostolate
- World Apostolate of Fatima/
Blue Army
- Militia of the Immaculata
- Little Sisters of the Poor
- Order of St. Augustine Mother
of Good Counsel Province
- Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
- Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill
- Felician Franciscan Sisters of Our
Lady of Hope Province
- Sisters of the Resurrection
- Missionary Sisters of St. Charles
Borromeo
- Oblate Sisters of Jesus the Priest
- Congregation of the Daughters
of Divine Love
- Verbum Dei Missionary Fraternity



Children at Holy Cross Parish are creatively supporting the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign. Their giving tree has inspired 189 parishioners to contribute \$991,242 in gifts toward the Deerfield parish's \$1,459,081 goal.

OVER GOAL!

As of July 8, seven parishes have exceeded their goals for the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

St. Edmund Parish
Oak Park

St. Francis of Assisi Parish (Kostner)
Chicago

St. Paul Chong Ha Sang Korean Catholic Mission
Des Plaines

Santa Maria Addolorata Parish
Chicago

St. Mary of Vernon Parish
Indian Creek

St. Clement Parish
Chicago

St. Joan of Arc Parish
Evanston

CASE ELEMENT: Facility life safety

The Catholic churches of the Archdiocese of Chicago are more than places of worship to the 2.2 million Catholics who live within its boundaries. Their steeples, spires and stained glass are a constant reminder of Christ among us. In total, more than 2,800 individual structures — sacred spaces as well as parish activity buildings, convents, rectories and schools — can be found in Cook and Lake counties.

Many of these sacred spaces are more than 100 years old and time has wrought havoc on this plethora of diverse structures. Many buildings have critical needs and issues beyond what some parishes in distressed communities are able to address given their financial circumstances.

The Archdiocesan Facilities and Construction Department monitors life safety issues in parishes throughout the Archdiocese. Addressing these issues in a timely manner is critical, as they affect the safety of the building, and therefore of its parishioners.

A full \$30 million of the funds raised for the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign will be designated for urgently needed repairs in economically distressed parishes. This reserve fund, to be distributed over the next 10 years, will be used to meet issues as they arise.





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CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total raised to date: \$121,444,534*

Percent of Goal: 34.7%

Cash received to date: \$21,666,972

Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000

Raised to date: \$36,118,065*

Number of gifts: 17,310

Percent of goal: 14.4%

Cash received: \$11,134,400

Major gift goal: \$100,000,000

Raised to date: \$85,328,469*

Number of gifts: 29

Percent of goal: 85.3%

Cash received: \$10,532,572

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

Connect with the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign



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