

# TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation November 2014



Dear Friends,

We have much to be grateful for during this season of Thanksgiving. We have welcomed Archbishop Blase Cupich as our new chief shepherd, and we have given gratitude to Cardinal Francis George for his years of service and leadership. We have also witnessed the kindness of many in our community, often for the benefit and comfort of those less fortunate than themselves.

One blessing I am thankful for, certainly, is the generosity more than 21,000 people have shown to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign and, ultimately, to the future of our Archdiocese. As our campaign gains momentum, I am hopeful that this generosity will be matched in the coming months. A new group of parishes are now in the process of conducting the campaign, and I appreciate their willingness and enthusiasm for this important endeavor.

As you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, please take a moment to lift up our Archdiocese and its mission in prayer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Francis Kane

Most Rev. Francis J. Kane  
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago

## Korean mission exceeds campaign goal, strengthens religious education programs



*Father Kyeong-Hwan Yi, pastor of St. Paul Chong Ha Sang, with Stella Son, parish secretary, and Madelyn Matya of To Teach Who Christ Is.*

When St. Paul Chong Ha Sang Korean Mission in Des Plaines volunteered to participate in the first wave of *To Teach Who Christ Is*, Father Kyeong-Hwan Yi was nervous.

The parish had opted out of the Millennium Campaign, so *To Teach Who Christ Is* was its first pledge campaign. Still, Father Yi decided the campaign would serve as a formation opportunity for his parish. Parish leaders followed the campaign plan, had all materials translated to Korean, and assembled a group of 18 volunteers, asking each to recruit two more people.

“By the end, we had a list of 130 names,” he says, noting that when the parish campaign ended, 215 parish families had contributed. “That means half of the pledge donors were involved as volunteers.”

Father Yi also invited 10 couples — representing his most generous parishioners — to a dinner and asked each to consider making a gift of \$10,000. While he was touched by everyone’s generosity, he pointed out that one couple who were unable to agree on a gift amount returned later with a \$20,000 pledge.

The campaign’s only low point occurred when less than half of the parishioners invited to an advanced gift gathering attended. “We were worried,” Father Yi says. “Then, on commitment Sunday, we reached half the goal in two Masses. It was a miracle. Then at the main Mass, we reached the goal.”

To date, St. Paul Chong Ha Sang has raised \$456,102 of its self-established goal of \$300,000. It is one of seven parishes across the Archdiocese of Chicago to exceed its goal. Under the campaign plan, St. Paul Chong Ha Sang retains 60 percent of its Archdiocesan-established goal of \$283,278, and 100 percent of the overage. The parish had identified

*Continued on page 2*

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Continued from page 1

four needs for funds raised during the campaign: hiring a director of religious education and a youth minister, building a storage room, and replacing the roof.

Religious education is especially vital for the 30-year-old parish, which attracts parishioners from Chicago's northwest suburbs as well as Korean Catholics from Wisconsin and Indiana. Before the campaign, many parishioners were unaware that St. Paul Chong Ha Sang was part of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Some parish children even believed they were actually members of the Diocese of Incheon in South Korea.



*The number of religious education students at St. Paul Chong Ha Sang is growing.*

“We need formation for the second generation,” Father Yi says. “Our religious education is growing. It was 130 and now it is 160. There were 40 in the youth group and now there are 60. We might need more rooms!”

Campaign funds have already been used to hire a youth group director, Stephanie Yang, 24, who has been a parishioner since 1996. Besides strengthening the youth ministry program, she hopes her presence will help grow the young adult representation at St. Paul Chong Ha Sang. “I am able to provide influence and hope that you can come back to the Church,” she says. “I want to be a role model for high schoolers.”

## Campaign gifts help ensure the future of Chicago's Catholic school system



The Archdiocese of Chicago is dedicated to ensuring the Catholic school system is strong, healthy and sustainable. The recently announced reconfiguration of schools was done to strengthen and maintain the quality of academic excellence throughout the Archdiocese.

“This restructuring is the result of our ongoing efforts to strengthen and support sustainable Catholic schools over the long term,” says Thomas McGrath, chief operating officer for Catholic Schools. “Although difficult in the immediate term, we know taking these steps will increase access for families and students to excellent Catholic school education, now and in the future.”

A number of funding opportunities have been used to strengthen Catholic schools, including *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

Campaign gifts are improving academic excellence and have created the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust, which is awarding scholarships through the newly created Caritas Scholars Program. In addition, scholarships, programs and grants from the Big Shoulders Fund have helped a significant number of inner-city schools, as have tuition assistance and grants from the Annual Catholic Appeal.

But even with this support, a number of schools have been unable to improve their viability due to declining enrollment and shifting neighborhood demographics. The reconfiguration includes school consolidations, re-purposing and closings.

Gifts provided in the campaign and other support from the Archdiocese will continue to support economically challenged schools showing signs of future viability. However, the Archdiocese is committed to being both fiscally responsible with and a good steward of the funds entrusted to the Church by the faithful in Cook and Lake counties. Neither of these commitments are met when funding is disseminated in an unsustainable manner, which is why the Archdiocese ultimately made the difficult decision to close or consolidate a select number of schools.

The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign is providing a much needed influx of new capital into our Catholic school system, with campaign gifts being allocated in areas where they will have the greatest impact. Scholarship awards through the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust are not only helping to eliminate the financial barrier that often stands between families and a Catholic education, they are being given directly to children and their families, not schools. These scholarships follow children to whatever Catholic school they choose to attend, a measure of flexibility that will further help sustain the Catholic school system.

The Archdiocese will assist the approximately 1,200 children (representing approximately 1.4 percent of students enrolled in the Catholic school system) impacted by these closures find other Catholic elementary schools to attend so they continue their Catholic education. The Office of Catholic Schools has created a website to help these families find another school: <http://schools.archchicago.org/pathways>.

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE | Patti Nowak

When Father Britto Berchmans approached Patti Nowak about chairing the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign at St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Park Ridge, she responded to her pastor with a resounding “yes.”

“It’s an amazing parish,” she says. “Every time there is a need, people step up. And they step up without wanting or needing recognition or anything in return.”

Patti has been a parishioner at St. Paul of the Cross for more than 15 years, and has served in many roles, including as president of the Apostolate of Women group. Most recently, she co-chaired the parish’s centennial celebration, a year of activities marking the parish’s 100-year anniversary. During that period, from 2011 to 2012, the parish also set out to develop a vision to ensure future generations would benefit from the “incredible faith community,” and began a two-year study to determine its needs.

St. Paul of the Cross was ready to launch a capital campaign when *To Teach Who Christ Is* was announced. The parish is now combining the two efforts under *Fulfilling Our Centennial Promise: To Teach Who Christ Is* and has set a goal of \$3 million.

The buzz that the centennial year generated at the parish is still present, Patti notes, and she is confident the campaign will capitalize on that excitement.

Plus, “there is something special about St. Paul that draws you in,” she says. “My faith has really been a backbone in my life, and my Church is truly how I enact my faith. I’m at a point in my life where I wanted to, and I needed to, give back. That’s really why I’m involved.”



## CASE ELEMENT: Academic excellence in Catholic schools



*To Teach Who Christ Is* will help enhance the academic excellence of our Catholic schools, with \$8 million in campaign funds being directed to five key areas:

- **Early childhood programs focusing on reading and math in the most challenged neighborhoods.** Research shows the power of early education — with 98 percent of the schools having 3- to 4-year old-programs, expanding the vibrancy of these already fine programs is a civic imperative for the poor.
- **Rigorous curriculum standards in all of our Catholic elementary and high schools.** The Archdiocesan course of studies must go “beyond the core” and thoroughly integrate the Catholic faith and academic rigor so students are prepared for both college and heaven.
- **Technology integration and infrastructure in classrooms, as well as expanded program offerings.** The careful selection of these tools is essential to the implementation of programs with balance and rigor.
- **Merit-based compensation and professional development opportunities,** so our Catholic schools can attract and retain the most accomplished, inspiring and effective teachers and principals. Teachers drive success — and principals, despite many other pressures, must view classroom excellence and care as primary.
- **Site-based models of blended learning programs, including online courses.** Creativity in developing new models of high-tech, high-touch instruction are necessary for both the nimble and efficient use of resources and differentiation of instruction for each child.



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## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000**

Total raised to date: \$132,090,725\*

Percent of Goal: 37.7%

Cash received to date: \$26,280,329

**Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000**

Raised to date: \$41,962,256\*

Number of gifts: 21,053

Percent of goal: 16.8%

Cash received: \$15,014,423

**Major gift goal: \$100,000,000**

Raised to date: \$90,128,469\*

Number of gifts: 31

Percent of goal: 90.1%

Cash received: \$11,265,906

\*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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