



TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

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

Dear Friends,

The return of cold weather has me reflecting on my arrival in Chicago last January — just in time for the polar vortex — as well as the past year.

My first year working for the Church in Chicago has opened my eyes to amazing and varied experiences of ministry. This diversity is reflected in everything from languages and demographics to socio-economic conditions.

But what seems to hold Chicago together is a deep-seeded belief in Church. So many people have shared stories with me about their family history in a parish, or series of parishes. Almost every person I have spoken with acknowledges the difficult issues our Catholic community faces. But despite these issues and challenges, people love the Church and continue to work together to solve its problems.

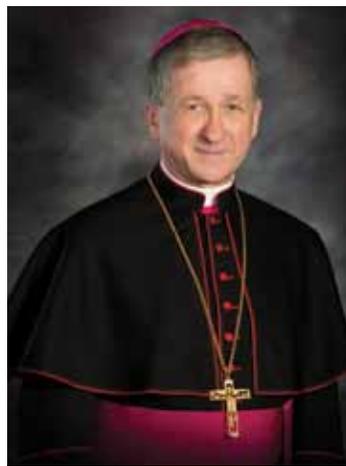
People often ask me what I do for a living, and when I tell them I fundraise for the Church, I tend to get a negative reaction. I stop people, though, and say that not everyone was meant to have the vocation of fundraiser. I, however, feel immensely blessed to work every day with people to share their abundant blessings from God with others through *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

Best Regards,

Peter de Keratry

Campaign Manager
To Teach Who Christ Is

‘My hope is that pastors and parishes would see this campaign as a gift, an opportunity and a blessing’



Archbishop Blase Cupich, installed as the Archdiocese of Chicago’s ninth archbishop last month, recently shared his thoughts about *To Teach Who Christ Is*. As the successor to Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., he now leads our \$350 million effort for strong parishes, Catholic education and faith formation.

Why do you feel *To Teach Who Christ Is* is important for the Archdiocese of Chicago?

Simply put, it is the mission of the Church “to teach who Christ is.” This campaign is designed to fund that mission and the new and creative ways the Church will undertake it as we move into the next era of our rich archdiocesan history.

Is it difficult taking over leadership of the campaign midstream?

Not at all, because my leadership has to be mission-centered and the campaign is a great gift to all of us as we carry out this mission.

What do you see as your role in the campaign?

I have to be a leader and a partner on a number of levels. First, as a donor myself, I personally will make a sacrificial gift to the campaign. Second, as a co-laborer, I want to stand with the pastors, lay women and men and religious who have already stepped forward to volunteer their time and talent to make the campaign a success. Third, I have a special leadership role in providing a service of good stewardship, so that the campaign is efficiently run and organized.

Why is it important that *To Teach Who Christ Is* is supporting parishes and Catholic education equally?

Because our educational programs are based both in our parishes and in our schools. All of our teachers, whether they are in religious education programs or our schools, deserve our full support and deep respect.

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What do you see as the impact of the campaign funding innovation in faith formation and training for catechists?

Our children deserve our best effort and so I believe that by updating our methods of teaching and formation with an emphasis on helping our young people not only to know about Christ, but to know Christ, we will witness a greater fidelity to the practice of the faith in those we teach. Also, let's remember that the Archdiocese of Chicago historically has a solid record and heralded reputation throughout the United States of leading the way when it comes to innovative and creative programs and initiatives. So, we need to continue our commitment to excellence when it comes to education and formation, knowing that what is done here will also benefit others throughout the country.

Why should Catholics throughout the archdiocese embrace *To Teach Who Christ Is*?

The answer to that question is another question everyone needs to answer: Has Christ changed your life? If that answer is yes, then we have no alternative but to introduce others to him. It is what St. Paul meant when he said that after his conversion to Christ he was "compelled to teach who Christ is" (I Corinthians 9:16). That same sense of being compelled motivates parents to sacrifice to send their children to religious education or Catholic schools, inspires vocations to the priesthood and religious life as well as people to become catechists and teachers.

What is your hope for pastors and parishes as they participate? What opportunity does the campaign give parishes and their parishioners?

My hope is that pastors and parishes would see this campaign as a gift, an opportunity and a blessing. Parishes will directly benefit from a campaign, the expenses of which are being totally underwritten by the archdiocese. Even more

importantly, all of us have the opportunity to come to a new sense of solidarity as Catholics in this archdiocese, who want the good of each other and all the parishes. That is an intangible benefit we should not overlook.

What are your goals for the campaign beyond finances?

The solidarity I just mentioned is very important to me. I also believe that it is important to have a success because success breeds success. In mentioning both solidarity and success I think of the way the Easter fire is passed on from one person to another at the Vigil. Little by little each candle catches flame and that gradual, step by step lighting of candles builds to a point that we find encouragement not only because our candle has been lit but because we see how each lighting creates a chance for more light to shine. My hope is that the campaign will ignite both solidarity and success.

To Teach Who Christ Is restarts with 20 Wave IIIa parishes

Twenty parishes are participating in Wave IIIa, the first since the campaign's transition in fundraising firms to CCS Fundraising. Together, they have an overall goal of \$21.5 million.

Wave IIIa includes three parishes running "standard" campaigns with the archdiocesan-set goal; four "enhanced" campaigns, with parishes seeking to raise additional funds to take advantage of receiving 100 percent of funds raised over goal; and six parishes that participated in an earlier wave of the campaign and are re-engaging to make their goals. In addition, seven parishes with local needs greater than 300 percent of their offertory collection have chosen to run independent campaigns.

Standard Parishes

St. Mary of the Lake on Sheridan
in Chicago
St. Joseph in Round Lake
SS. Peter and Paul on Halsted in Chicago

Enhanced Parishes

St. Paul of the Cross in Park Ridge
St. Vincent de Paul on Webster
in Chicago
St. Bede the Venerable on Kostner
in Chicago
St. Vincent Ferrer in River Forest

Early Wave Continuation Parishes

Church of St. Mary in Lake Forest
St. Patricia in Hickory Hills
St. Isaac Jogues in Niles
St. Matthew in Schaumburg
St. Francis Borgia on Addison in Chicago
St. Simeon in Bellwood

Independent Parishes

SS. Faith, Hope and Charity in Winnetka
St. Benedict on Irving Park in Chicago
St. Theresa in Palatine
St. Francis Xavier in Wilmette
St. Mary in Riverside
St. Teresa of Avila on Armitage in Chicago
St. Matthias on Ainslie in Chicago

CELEBRATING CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Breakfast



First Celebrating Catholic Education breakfast to take place in January

Archbishop Blase Cupich will give the keynote address at the first *Celebrating Catholic Education breakfast*, to be held from 7:15 to 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 27, at The Drake Hotel in Chicago.

Holy Cross Father Tim Scully of Notre Dame University will emcee the event, which will allow Archbishop Cupich the opportunity to give his views on the future of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Funds raised at the *Celebrating Catholic Education* breakfast will provide scholarships to students in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago through the Caritas Scholars Program and the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust, which was created by gifts to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

To Teach Who Christ Is is grateful to the breakfast's current sponsors, ComEd and Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Wehmer, as their generosity will allow 100 percent of ticket sales to be directed to scholarships. Sponsorship opportunities are still available at all levels.

Tickets are \$125 a person or \$1,500 for a table of 10, and can be purchased online at www.toteachwhochristis.org/breakfast or by calling (312) 534-5395.

For more information about the Celebrating Catholic Education breakfast, please contact Catherine Volini at cvolini@archchicago.org or (312) 534-5395.



Appreciated securities make great year-end gifts

The year-end is the perfect time to gift appreciated securities to the Church through *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

In general, gifts of securities, real estate or other assets that have gone up in value are the best assets you can give from a tax perspective. If you make such a gift in December, you are still able to receive an income tax deduction for this year.

There is a double tax benefit for donating appreciated securities. Not only are you able to deduct the full fair market value of your appreciated assets, if the asset has been owned for more than one year, you avoid all capital gains taxes on their "paper profit."

Gifts of securities, real estate or other assets that have gone up in value are the best assets you can give from a tax perspective.

You may also choose to give cash or appreciated securities right now in the form of a charitable gift annuity and still keep receiving income from the annuity for as long as you live. The Church obtains the use of the funds only after your death, but you receive an income tax deduction this year. And you minimize capital gains tax on your paper profit.

For more information, please call Elin Schriver, relationship manager of *To Teach Who Christ Is*, at (312) 534-5396.



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CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total raised to date: \$133,476,854*

Percent of Goal: 38.1%

Cash received to date: \$29,372,875

Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000

Raised to date: \$42,036,911*

Number of gifts: 21,338

Percent of goal: 16.8%

Cash received: \$16,454,039

Major gift goal: \$100,000,000

Raised to date: \$91,439,943*

Number of gifts: 33

Percent of goal: 91.4%

Cash received: \$12,918,836

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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