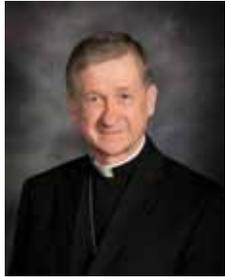




TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

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

February 2015



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On the day my appointment by Pope Francis as the Archbishop of Chicago was announced, Cardinal

George noted that transitions in leadership always have the benefit of bringing a fresh set of eyes. I can tell you that my eyes have remained wide open with delight as I have seen firsthand the unique qualities of the lay men and women, priests and religious of this great local Church. There is an unparalleled strength and vigor in Chicago's Catholic community.

All of this makes me quite honored to be your archbishop and to take up the task of leading *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

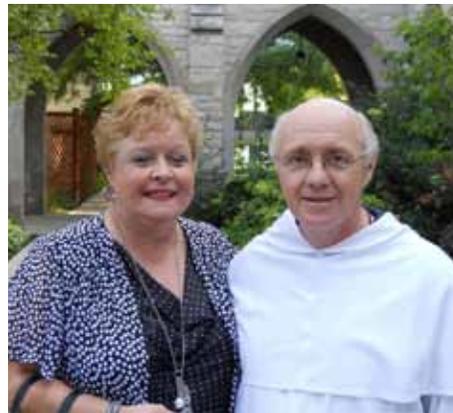
My simple request to you is to join the thousands of Catholics across the Archdiocese who have already pledged a gift to the campaign. By coming together to support the needs of today and tomorrow we not only will benefit from our partnership with one another, but also be true to the rich heritage of our ancestors who built our churches and schools and established educational and social programs that have enriched all of our lives. We can have that same kind of impact on the Church for years to come, ever faithful to our call *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Blase J. Cupich*

Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

St. Vincent Ferrer chooses enhanced goal for new multipurpose hall



St. Vincent Ferrer's new parish hall will be named in honor of beloved former associate pastor Father Michael Kyte, O.P., who passed away last year.

St. Vincent Ferrer Parish in River Forest has exceeded its Archdiocesan-set *To Teach Who Christ Is* goal of \$1,128,243 — the first parish to do so in Wave IIIa — but has chosen an enhanced campaign goal of \$2,350,000 in order to build a new multipurpose hall for parish gatherings.

"I never expected that within two weeks, we would have more than \$1.3 million in solid pledges," says Father Tom McDermott, O.P., pastor. "It shows that the faith is still important to people."

He credits the parish's success to the counsel he is receiving from the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign office as well as

well-chosen parish leadership, specifically chair Chuck Doherty and the Campaign Executive Committee (CEC).

Since St. Vincent Ferrer lacks a basement, Father McDermott explains that meetings are either currently held in the parish center, a former convent situated behind the church with three small rooms, or in the gym, barring conflicts with sporting events. The proposed \$1.9 million multipurpose hall will accommodate approximately 400 people and double as the school's lunchroom.

"By building a new multipurpose hall, we can have more activities at which parishioners will get to know one another," Father McDermott says. "A sense of community will arise from this and, by supporting each other in the faith, we could be a beacon to many others who are searching for meaning in life."

The hall will be named in honor of beloved former associate pastor Father Michael Kyte, O.P., who passed away last year. "The parish has been looking for a way to honor

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Father Kyte,” explains Chuck, noting that it was part of his inspiration for taking a leadership role in the campaign.

Still, he points out, the focus of the enhanced campaign remains on the case elements laid out by the Archdiocese. Forty percent of the funds parishes raise during their campaigns will be shared with the Archdiocese to benefit faith formation, increase academic excellence in Catholic schools and provide scholarships through the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust. St. Vincent Ferrer will contribute just over \$450,000.

“The benefits of investing in religious education and Catholic education are being shared with everyone in the parish as the impetus for the whole campaign,” Chuck says. “Everyone is excited when they learn the details of *To Teach Who Christ Is*.”



Father McDermott sees the campaign as an important opportunity for parishes throughout the Archdiocese to join together. The case for *To Teach Who Christ Is*, especially scholarships for deserving children, he adds, is “a very worthy project that we should all get behind.”

“Catholics are not Congregationalists,” he says. “We belong to a larger collective group, which is the Archdiocese of Chicago. Alone, individual parishes are limited in what they can do outside the parish but, together, we can achieve a lot.”



Photo by Karen Callaway/Catholic New World

Cardinal George donates portion of Knights award to campaign

The Knights of Columbus recently bestowed its highest honor, the Gaudium et Spes award, upon Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., who is directing a portion of the accompanying gift to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

Cardinal George is giving \$50,000 of the \$100,000 gift to the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust, an independent endowment fund created from gifts to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign. The remaining \$50,000 will be divided and donated to various charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Supreme Knight of Columbus Carl Anderson presented Cardinal George with the Gaudium et Spes award, which was established in 1992 and is named for the Second Vatican Council’s Apostolic Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, at a January 30 ceremony. Past recipients include Mother Teresa and Cardinal John O’Connor of New York. Cardinal George has been a member of the Knights since 1991.

Baltimore Archbishop William Lori, the Knights chaplain, read the award’s citation, which said in part: “Both in his brilliant speeches, homilies, letters and books, and in the brave witness to the faith that he has shown to the world — in sickness and in health — Cardinal George has proven over and over again one of the leading voices in the Catholic Church in the United States.”

“This award is for you as well as it is for me because you share the joys and the hopes, the anxieties and the griefs of all of the people whom you know and all of the people whom you don’t know but you know you are called to love because God is love,” Cardinal George said after receiving the award. “And we are made in his image and likeness.”

Doctors have exhausted all options in Cardinal George’s cancer treatment and have moved on to palliative care. Since his retirement as archbishop of Chicago in November, he’s been keeping regular appointments and hearing confessions at Holy Name Cathedral on Thursdays when he’s free. Hearing confessions was one of the things he said he looked forward to most in retirement.

The Catholic New World contributed to this report.

First *Celebrating Catholic Education* breakfast a success



The first *Celebrating Catholic Education* breakfast was a success — raising \$240,000 for scholarships as well as awareness for the importance of Catholic education.

Nearly 500 business leaders, politicians and Catholic school supporters attended to hear Archbishop Blase Cupich's first address on the future of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Thanks to event sponsors, all proceeds from the breakfast, which was held at Chicago's Drake Hotel during Catholic Schools Week, have been directed to the Caritas Scholars Program and the independent Catholic Education Scholarship Trust.

"My point is simple," Archbishop Cupich told those gathered. "Our system of education works; it benefits society and deserves support so that it can continue."

The Archdiocese of Chicago's Catholic school system serves more than 83,000 students. Archbishop Cupich credited the sacrifices religious women made to build our school system; sacrifices lay teachers continue today by taking lower salaries than at public school systems. But he noted that shifting demographics have changed how people related to their parishes, and have brought challenges to how schools fit into the mission of parishes.

"Making our system of education stronger, and particularly more available to families in need of financial aid, is at

the heart of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign," he said. "Its aim is to bolster and sustain the tuition assistance we provide to tens of thousands of children who attend our 240 schools, served by over 7,000 tax-paying teachers."

He noted that Catholic schools save taxpayers more than \$20 billion each year, and that closing Catholic schools increases the burden on taxpayers. "The likelihood of continuing this legacy is in doubt without some adjustment that will give families a choice through government cooperation," he said.

Father Tim Scully, C.S.C., of the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program, served as the morning's emcee. He noted that 73 ACE participants are providing transformative leadership as principals or teachers in 37 Archdiocese of Chicago schools.

"Truly transformative leaders are the holy grail of school success, and will be our foremost strategic priority in partnership with the Archdiocese of Chicago in the coming years," he said.

Speaker Katie Olson, principal of Our Lady of Charity School in Cicero and an ACE program graduate, shared how Caritas scholarships have been crucial to drawing new families to her school. "This allows us to more fully realize our mission of developing children into disciples of Christ and leaders in the community," she said. "Truly, every child deserves an excellent, faith-based education regardless of the socio-economic level of his or her family."

Currently, 43 students at Our Lady of Charity receive a Caritas scholarship and their families bring a "beautiful spirit of gratitude to our community."

"What they are unable to give monetarily, they more than make up for in their faithful commitment to our school," she said. "It is this mutual exchange of individual gifts that strengthen our Catholic community."

The second annual *Celebrating Catholic Education* breakfast is scheduled for February 2, 2016.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

President (\$50,000 or more)

Sage Foundation

Principal (\$25,000)



Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Castellini

Dean of Students (\$10,000)

Mr. and Mrs. James N. Perry, Jr.
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CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total raised to date: \$142,503,618*

Percent of Goal: 40.7%

Cash received to date: \$36,574,199

Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000

Raised to date: \$46,363,675*

Number of gifts: 21,814

Percent of goal: 17.9%

Cash received: \$20,058,547

Major gift goal: \$100,000,000

Raised to date: \$96,139,943*

Number of gifts: 36

Percent of goal: 96.1%

Cash received: \$16,515,652

*Includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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