



TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

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

April 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

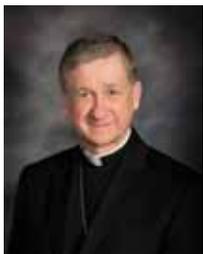
As you may already know, our beloved Cardinal George was called home to the Lord this month. He was a man of great faith and courage, a holy man who faced and overcame many obstacles during his life. His missionary spirit led him to travel the world as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate, then return home to Chicago. Not only was he a great leader here in our Archdiocese, but for the Church far beyond. Despite his wide-ranging responsibilities and commitments, he always considered the care and love of those in the Chicago area, in Christ's name, as his primary mission.

Faithful from across the Archdiocese of Chicago, and the world, showered Cardinal George with letters and cards during his long battle with cancer. He often remarked how grateful he was to receive these messages, particularly because they included promises of prayer. The kind greetings and well wishes he received during his numerous visits to parishes across our Archdiocese also touched him.

Of course, throughout the years, Cardinal George appreciated the prayers, service and financial gifts from thousands of Chicago Catholics. Your contributions have been so vitally important in fulfilling the mission of our local Church — enabling our Church to proclaim Christ, to serve the poor and marginalized, and to educate our children.

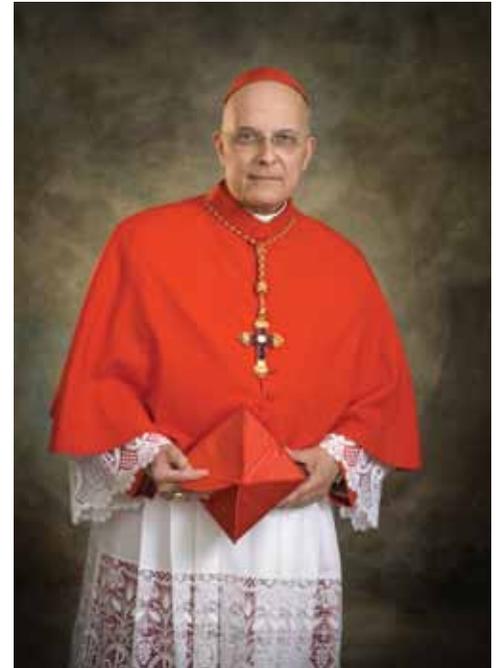
In lieu of flowers, Cardinal George requested donations be made to his favorite charities: the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust, a new endowment established through *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign to support scholarships for students in Catholic schools, or the Priests' Retirement and Mutual Aid Association.

As we mourn the passing of our beloved Cardinal, let us rejoice in the promises of our Risen Lord. Please join me in praying for the repose of the soul of Cardinal George and in thanking God for his life and dedication to the Archdiocese of Chicago. May Cardinal George rest in peace.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago



New scholarship fund created in Cardinal George's name

With great insight and foresight, Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., launched *To Teach Who Christ Is*. Now his legacy, this campaign will ensure the future of our parishes, Catholic education and faith formation.

To Teach Who Christ Is is easily the most ambitious effort of its kind. Thousands of faithful across the Archdiocese of Chicago have already pledged nearly \$150 million, with Cardinal George personally instrumental in securing more than \$90 million in gifts. Now Archbishop Blase Cupich has taken on the honor of leading this effort.

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Cardinal George long sought to ensure a Catholic education was available to all children, regardless of financial need. His dedication to Catholic education was evidenced by his own personal bequest to the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust. Funded with gifts to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, this independent trust will provide scholarships and ensure a Catholic education is available to children throughout Cook and Lake counties for generations to come.

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A memorial fund has now been established in the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust in the Cardinal's name. The Francis Cardinal George Scholarship Fund is a permanent endowment that will provide scholarships to qualified children in Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Catholic Education Scholarship Trust is invested to create spendable income as well as to achieve long-term appreciation of capital. Scholarship awards from the Francis Cardinal George Scholarship Fund will be awarded as income is available.

"Our schools are communities where all children are safe in God's love and therefore free to learn," Cardinal George once wrote. "Free of government control and not driven by individual agendas, the Catholic schools and other educational efforts of the Archdiocese need and deserve generous support."

To make a gift to the Francis Cardinal George Scholarship Fund, please go to www.toteachwhochristis.org/cardinal or send checks payable to *TTWCI Cardinal George Fund* to: *To Teach Who Christ Is*, 835 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

DONOR PROFILE | Georgette and Joe Kudelka



From the time they were children, Georgette and Joe Kudelka's lives have been intertwined with Chicago's St. Ferdinand Parish, making their decision to support *To Teach Who Christ Is* an easy one.

The two met as third graders at St. Ferdinand School; he was an altar boy and she played the parish organ; and, when they were both 21, then-Father James Moriarty married the couple in the church (where, many years later, now-Msgr. Moriarty married three of their four children). Joe served as treasurer of the Holy Name Society and president of the parish bowling league, and Georgette joined the Ladies of St. Anne. Their children attended the

Georgette and Joe decided to make a major gift to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, in hopes that it will encourage others at St. Ferdinand Parish to contribute.

school, and the family was involved with the Christian Family Movement.

"We were very active in everything," Joe says. "I can't see us existing without St. Ferdinand."

Their pastor, Father Jason Torba, asked the couple to attend the parish's first meeting for the Campaign Executive Committee. At 84, "we were the oldest ones there," Joe laughs. But Father Torba assured the dedicated couple that there was a place for them on the parish campaign team.

The Kudelkas liked what they heard about *To Teach Who Christ Is*, especially how it will benefit Catholic education across the Archdiocese as well as help their parish meet local needs. "The more kids we can get in Catholic schools, the better," Joe says.

St. Ferdinand plans to use its share of campaign funds to repair the roof of the school and rectory, design a playground, provide additional religious services to parish families, and purchase a new back-up generator to avoid power outages.

St. Ferdinand is one of 22 parishes in Wave IIIb of *To Teach Who Christ Is*. The parish is currently at 24 percent of its standard goal of \$730,000. If it meets its goal, \$438,000 will remain at the parish for local needs.

Georgette and Joe decided to make a major gift to the campaign, in hopes that it will encourage others at St. Ferdinand to contribute. They have also talked to their friends about *To Teach Who Christ Is*. "We're not wealthy people," Joe says. "We love St. Ferdinand's."

"We feel what we can do will be a help to the future," Georgette adds.

‘We are merely God’s instruments’

St. Bede the Venerable Parish has launched a capital campaign, *Help St. Bede Take Flight*, as a way to participate in *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

The Chicago parish is one of seven in Wave IIIa of the campaign, which has now collectively surpassed its Archdiocesan-set goal of \$5.9 million. St. Bede is at 30 percent of its enhanced goal of \$1.075 million, of which it will retain approximately \$750,000 for pressing local needs.

“The campaign is important for St. Bede because it helps the community come together, to do a common project together, and it also marks a new moment in its history, both supporting the Archdiocese as well as beautifying its own facilities,” says Father Esequiel Sanchez, pastor.

With its share of *To Teach Who Christ Is* funds, the parish plans to replace the floor covering in the church and install a new lighting scheme that is more conducive to prayer yet functional for religious celebrations, as well as add a fabric ceiling to soften both sound and light. The altar will also be renovated.

Father Sanchez says he is excited about the “opportunity to have a more beautiful worship space and bring more people to our faith through it.”

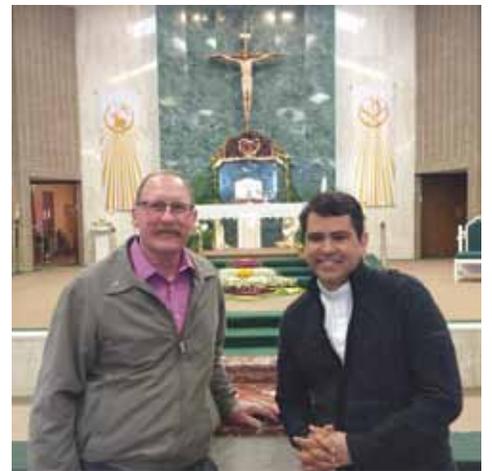
Father Sanchez has enlisted the help of two couples to serve as co-chairpersons: Silvia and Guillermo Tejada and Mary and Walt Bruckner. The campaign team began working on the local case more than a year ago to ensure the community would lend its support.

Silvia and Guillermo had been involved in a successful \$5 million campaign at their previous parish, St. Margaret Mary in Algonquin. When Father Sanchez asked them to co-chair, they agreed because they were convinced St. Bede could be just as successful, given the generosity of parishioners during previous times of great need.

Additionally, all parishioners are aware that the church is in need of significant updating. “The signs of wear and tear are so obvious that there is no need to ‘convince’ anyone of the need for a renovation and how much their help is needed,” Guillermo says.

He believes that simultaneously meeting the financial goal of the parish and the Archdiocese through *To Teach Who Christ Is* will create “a sense of oneness and camaraderie inspiring greater spiritual unity.”

“My wife and I are approaching the campaign with a lot of faith,” Guillermo says. “We are merely God’s instruments.”



Father Esequiel Sanchez with campaign co-chairs Silvia and Guillermo Tejada (above) and Walt Bruckner (below).

Campaign Update: Wave IIIa surpasses goal

The seven parishes of Wave IIIa have collectively surpassed the wave’s \$5.9 million *To Teach Who Christ Is* goal in gifts and pledges!

Three parishes have exceeded their individual goals. Saints Peter and Paul in Chicago has raised \$175,678, or 211 percent of its \$83,344 goal. The funds the parish will retain from *To Teach Who Christ Is* — just over \$142,000 — will be designated for facility needs, including painting the interior and exterior of the church and remodeling a restroom.

St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Paul of the Cross both set enhanced goals to meet greater local needs. To date, St. Vincent Ferrer has raised nearly \$1.7 million, or 64 percent of its enhanced goal of \$2.5 million, and plans to build a new multipurpose hall for parish gatherings. St. Paul of the Cross has raised nearly \$3.6 million, or 120 percent of its enhanced goal of \$3 million, and has significant renovations planned, including remodeling its upper church and Holy Family Chapel, refurbishing its conference room, building a new playground, and making its adoration chapel accessible.

Wave IIIa’s remaining parishes continue to accept gifts: St. Vincent de Paul, St. Mary of the Lake and St. Bede the Venerable in Chicago; and St. Joseph in Round Lake.

Wave IIIb’s 22 parishes are currently at 35 percent of their collective goal of \$14.3 million, with two parishes — Ascension-St. Susanna in Harvey and Immaculate Conception in Chicago — having already achieved goal. Wave IV will begin in early autumn in 67 parishes, following a kickoff orientation with Archbishop Blase Cupich in July.



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CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total raised to date: \$148,848,776*

Percent of Goal: 42.5%

Cash received to date: \$39,862,535

Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000

Raised to date: \$52,708,833*

Number of gifts: 22,982

Percent of goal: 22.6%

Cash received: \$23,268,826

Major gift goal: \$100,000,000

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

Number of gifts: 36

Percent of goal: 96.1%

Cash received: \$16,593,708

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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