

# TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

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

August 2015

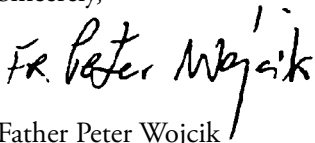
Dear Friends,

Each year, more than 200,000 young Catholics learn about their faith through parish religious education programs, in Catholic schools, and in youth ministry programs. With nearly 10,000 catechists and catechetical leaders, our Archdiocese operates one of the largest and most complex educational systems in the world.

*To Teach Who Christ Is* is allowing us to bring new and more effective methods of teaching, faith engagement and catechetical formation to our parishes and schools. We are participating in a pilot program for middle and high school religion students through Bishop-elect Robert Barron's *Word on Fire*. We are also preparing to roll-out parish-based online formation programs as well as online catechetical training and enrichment programs. A new project manager is coordinating the search for innovative ways to offer religious education and youth ministry and will help us to pilot those programs in communities that need them the most.

I am grateful to all who help us to strengthen the ways we learn and teach the faith by supporting *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

Sincerely,



Father Peter Wojcik  
Director of the Office for Catechesis  
and Youth Ministry  
Archdiocese of Chicago

## Archbishop Cupich kicks off Wave IV

Archbishop Blase Cupich has invited more than a thousand new volunteers for *To Teach Who Christ Is* to be his partners for Wave IV of the campaign.

"We can make a difference here," he told those gathered for an orientation meeting at St. Patrick Parish in Lake Forest on July 28. "Let's all join together ... to do something important. My hope would be that we would create a partnership here tonight. I can't do this alone."



*Archbishop Cupich addresses To Teach Who Christ Is volunteers at St. John of the Cross Parish in Western Springs.*

A second orientation was held the following night at St. John of the Cross Parish in Western Springs, followed by two more in August for Spanish- and Polish-speaking parishes at Chicago's St. Gall and St. Priscilla parishes. Orientation meetings are specifically for those who serve as Campaign Executive Committee members and assist their pastors in carrying out successful parish campaigns.

The fourth wave of *To Teach Who Christ Is* launches in the fall, with 57 parishes participating and a collective goal of \$32 million. The campaign has an overall goal of \$350 million. Recent momentum in both the \$250 million effort by parishes and the

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\$100 million major gift effort has led to the campaign surpassing 50 percent of its overall goal, according to Peter de Keratry, campaign manager.

The major gift effort has now yielded more than \$110 million, which includes \$10 million in new documented major gifts the Archbishop received during a single week in July.

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to do something important.  
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would create a partnership.  
I can’t do this alone.”  
~Archbishop Cupich

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On hand at the orientations to explain the shared campaign elements of scholarships — for faith formation, scholarships and academic excellence in Catholic schools — were Father Wayne Watts, pastor of St. John Berchmans Parish in Chicago, and Sister Mary Paul McCaughey, OP, a senior relationship manager with *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

“It’s important to realize that what we’re really doing here is passing on the faith to the next generation,” Archbishop Cupich noted. “That’s why the Cardinal wisely called this *To Teach Who Christ Is*.”

Father Laurence Dunn, pastor of St. Patrick, said his parish was pleased to host one of the orientations and welcome Archbishop Cupich. There was “excitement in the air,” he said.

The third wave of parish campaigns is collectively over goal, with 21 parishes exceeding their individual goals. Overall, more than 5,600 gifts have helped propel Wave III parishes to 113 percent of their collective goal of \$20.3 million.

The final two waves of the campaign will take place in 2016.

## Wave IV pastors and parishes

Father Anthony Dziorek, CR, St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr, Chicago  
Father Edward Romanski, St. John the Baptist, Harvey  
Father Hugo Leon Londono, MSC, St. Joseph (Hermitage Avenue), Chicago  
Father Idzi Stacherczak, St. Priscilla, Chicago  
Father Tomasz Wojciechowski, St. Hedwig, Chicago  
Father Wacław Lech, OCD, St. Camillus, Chicago  
Father John W. Clemens, Our Lady of Hope, Des Plaines  
Msgr. Robert J. Dempsey, St. Philip the Apostle, Northfield  
Father Thomas E. Srenn, Immaculate Conception - Talcott Avenue, Chicago  
Father Tirso S. Villaverde, St. Thomas of Canterbury, Chicago  
Father Anthony Rice, St. Peter, Volo  
Father Antoine Leason, St. Elizabeth, Chicago  
Father C. Frank Phillips, St. John Cantius, Chicago  
Father James M. Hyland, Most Holy Redeemer, Evergreen Park  
Father James P. Finno, St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr, Tinley Park  
Msgr. Daniel G. Mayall, Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago  
Father Adan Sandoval Duran, Our Lady of the Mount, Cicero  
Father Christopher L. Krymski, OSM, Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, Chicago  
Father Michael V. Kalck, Holy Rosary Church, Chicago  
Father Paul J. Kalchik, Resurrection, Chicago  
Father Pius Kokose, St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr, Posen  
Father Anthony M. Talarico, Holy Ghost, South Holland  
Father James A. Mezydło, St. Walter, Chicago  
Father Thomas S. Cabala, Our Lady of Loretto, Hometown  
Father Diego Berrio, St. Domitilla, Hillside  
Father Andrzej Bartosz, Our Lady, Mother of the Church, Chicago  
Father Maciej D. Galle, St. Stephen King of Hungary, Chicago  
Father Robert Schultz, St. Beatrice, Schiller Park  
Father Thomas Jackson, Holy Name of Mary, Chicago  
Father Daniel Whiteside, St. Mary, Buffalo Grove  
Father James L. Barrett, St. Margaret Mary, Chicago  
Father Laurence J. Dunn, St. Patrick, Lake Forest  
Father Lawrence McNally, St. Matthias, Chicago  
Father Andrew Smith, Holy Angels, Chicago  
Father Bob Beaven, St. Juliana, Chicago  
Father Michael J. Cronin, St. Edward, Chicago  
Father Paul Duy Cao, St. Celestine, Elmwood Park  
Father Alfredo Gundrum, OFM, St. Clare of Montefalco, Chicago  
Father Armando Morlaes Martinez, St. George, Chicago  
Father Daniel W. Long, Jr., Epiphany, Chicago  
Father Gary M. Graf, St. Gall, Chicago  
Father Pedro Campos, St. Kevin, Chicago  
Father Rigoberto G. Alfonso, Our Lady of Tepeyac, Chicago  
Father James F. Blazek, St. Maria Goretti, Schiller Park  
Father Michael J. Wanda, Divine Infant Jesus, Westchester  
Father Paul Huesing, Old St. Mary’s, Chicago  
Father Ricardo Castillo, St. Bartholomew, Chicago  
Father Jerzy Gawlik, SVD, St. Joseph the Worker, Wheeling  
Father Mark Kalema, Our Lady Gate of Heaven, Chicago  
Father Mark Kalema, Our Lady of Peace, Chicago  
Father Mark Kalema, Haitian Catholic Community, Chicago  
Father Robert Miller, St. Dorothy, Chicago  
Father Ronald J. Gollatz, Transfiguration, Wauconda  
Father George Omwando, St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy, Oak Park  
Father Ignatius Anaele, St. Jude the Apostle, South Holland  
Father Michael G. Foley, Our Lady of the Woods, Orland Park  
Father Patrick M. Tucker, Sacred Heart, Palos Hills



## VOLUNTEER PROFILE | Diane Pajkos



*Diane and Tom Pajkos*

Serving as a Campaign Executive Committee member at St. Bernadette Parish in Evergreen Park was worth the time commitment, especially considering all *To Teach Who Christ Is* will help accomplish there, says Diane Pajkos.

“I truly couldn’t believe in February, when we began, that we would’ve reached our goal,” she says.

But in July, St. Bernadette reached 100 percent of its parish goal of \$560,000, thanks to the support of 143 parishioners. The parish will use its share of campaign funds — approximately \$336,000 — to improve the accessibility of the church, such as with ramps, new lighting and restroom remodeling, as well as update O’Brien Hall, the community’s central meeting space. In addition, nearly \$90,000 will be dedicated to bolstering the parish’s Faith Formation Department, including creating a speaker series, a theology course for adults, and a mission trip program to enhance youth ministry.

She credits the leadership and optimism of her pastor, Father Benedykt Pazdan, for St. Bernadette’s success. “Having Father involved made the difference between failure and success,” says Diane, a Eucharistic minister who coordinates the ministry at the parish. “Father was heavily involved.

Whenever you hit the wall, he’d say, ‘give me the folder.’ He was a huge part of our fundraising.”

Father Pazdan’s dedication to transparency also helped with negative feelings at the parish from a past fundraising effort and the parish school’s closing. Diane notes that the majority of parishioners she visited and called received the campaign positively.

Now that the parish has reached goal, 100 percent of additional funds raised will remain at the parish. Diane says the committee hopes to accomplish at least one of its projects soon, so people can see the impact of their gifts and to further encourage those who have yet to pledge.

“I’m happy to have been a part of it,” says Diane, who adds that *To Teach Who Christ Is* gave her the opportunity to get to know more parishioners. “Now, as I’m distributing the Body of Christ, I have nice, familiar faces to make eye contact with.”

## Campaign gift creates Catechetical Education Scholarship Fund in honor of St. Robert Bellarmine

A recent gift to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign has created the St. Robert Bellarmine Catechetical Education Scholarship Fund, which will provide scholarships to parish-based volunteers and staff seeking certification in religious education.

Faith formation is an essential part of the Archdiocese of Chicago’s mission — and an integral element of *To Teach Who Christ Is*. More than 96,000 children currently receive their foundation in the Catholic faith and preparation for the sacraments through parish religious education programs.

The Archdiocese of Chicago requires those involved in religious education and youth ministry programs to be certified, including completing a Certificate of Studies in Catechetical Leadership. The Archdiocesan Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry established the Certificate of Studies in Catechetical Leadership in 2008 with the Office of Catholic Schools and the University of Saint Mary of the Lake. This rigorous program ensures that in addition to academic training and spiritual formation, pastoral skills are emphasized to make catechetical leaders more effective collaborators with their pastors.

Understandably, few volunteers are willing or able to spend their personal resources for required training, and many parishes lack the funding. As a result, these parishes are often unable to create a dynamic and rigorous religious education curriculum. Many of the most economically challenged parishes across the Archdiocese of Chicago are the same communities with the highest need for youth ministry and religious education programs.

Scholarship awards from the St. Robert Bellarmine Catechetical Education Scholarship Fund will be made to qualified applicants as income from this endowment is available.



*St. Robert Bellarmine*

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# TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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

Total raised to date: \$182,118,010\*

Percent of Goal: 52%

Cash received to date: \$50,973,433

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

Raised to date: \$71,781,233\*

Number of gifts: 28,092

Percent of goal: 28.7%

Cash received: \$31,361,639

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

Raised to date: \$110,336,776\*

Number of gifts: 49

Percent of goal: 110.3%

Cash received: \$19,611,794

\*Includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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