



TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

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

October 2015

Dear Friends,

The change of seasons always brings with it a pause for reflection. This autumn, U.S. Catholics were blessed with a visit from our Holy Father, giving us even more to think about — especially in regards to our faith and culture. Archbishop Blase Cupich is now with Pope Francis in Rome for the Synod of Bishops on the Family, the results of which will surely provide more fodder for our contemplations.

As parishes participate in *To Teach Who Christ Is*, they too are called to reflection. As part of the process, parishes examine their greatest local needs so they can best dedicate funds raised during their parish campaigns. All parishes receive 60 percent of the funds they raise up to their assigned goal, and 100 percent over that amount. It is exciting to see parishes that successfully participated in earlier waves expanding ministries and improving facilities, thanks to *To Teach Who Christ Is* and the generosity of so many of their parishioners.

Of course, we should all reflect on and be grateful for the shared ministries our campaign is supporting, such as religious education and faith formation.

I hope you will take a moment this month to think about how your faith relates to both your family and, in the spirit of *To Teach Who Christ Is*, your parish family.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Peter de Keratry, CFRE
Campaign Manager

To Teach Who Christ Is hits \$200 million

To Teach Who Christ Is has reached a significant milestone: exceeding \$200 million of its \$350 million overall goal.

The campaign has currently raised \$203.9 million from more than 30,000 donors. "The sacrificial gifts so many have shared with those in need through this campaign gives me a great sense of joy and pride in the people of Chicago," says Archbishop Blase Cupich. "The result of the work begun by Cardinal George to create *To Teach Who Christ Is* will be felt by parishes and other ministries of our local Church for generations to come."

To Teach Who Christ Is includes both major gift and parish campaign efforts. The major gift effort exceeded its \$100 million goal in July, and Archbishop Cupich has pledged to raise an additional \$25 million. The \$114.3 million in major gift and bequest commitments from individuals and foundations, raised personally by Cardinal Francis George, OMI, and Archbishop Cupich, will primarily benefit Catholic school scholarships and religious education programs.

Gifts to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign established the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust, an independent trust which will provide scholarships to qualified students in Catholic schools throughout Cook and Lake counties. Endowments are also being established for the professional development of teachers and principals, as well as to provide funding for the formation and certification of parish catechists.



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- Archbishop Blase Cupich

The parish campaign effort has now raised \$89.6 million of its \$250 million goal. All parishes in the Archdiocese are participating in *To Teach Who Christ Is* in one of six waves, and the success of Wave III parishes has both bolstered the parish campaign effort and provided momentum for the current Wave IV, says Peter de Keratry, campaign

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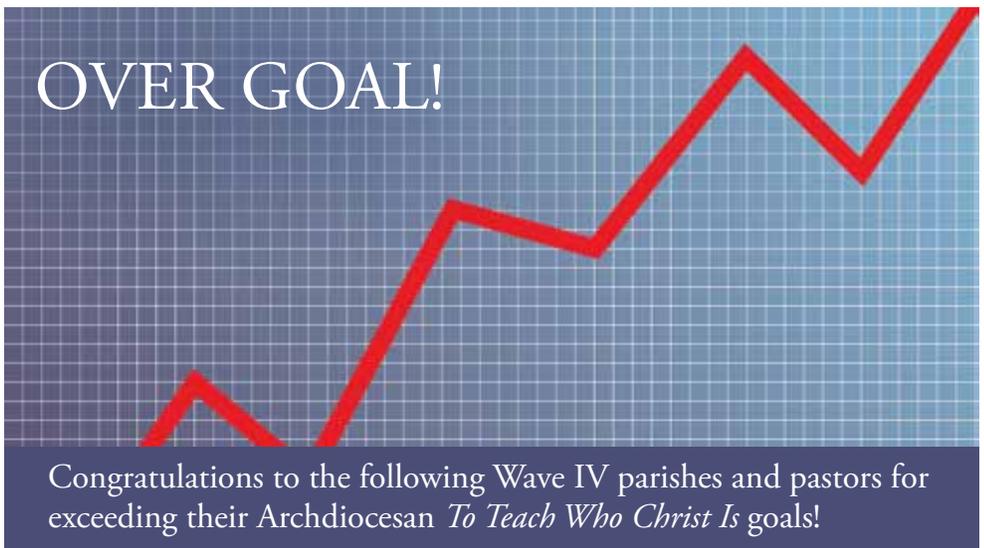
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manager and interim director of stewardship and development.

Wave III's 29 parishes have collectively raised \$23.6 million, or 116 percent of their goal, and five of those parishes are continuing with their efforts. The 56 Wave IV parishes have already received \$13.4 million in pledges toward their collective goal of \$30.2 million, and three parishes have exceeded their individual goals.

"*To Teach Who Christ Is* has always been about the fundamental mission of the Church," he says. "Faithful in parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago have given not only dollars to support the mission of the Church, they have given the gift of our Catholic faith to future generations."

To Teach Who Christ Is is on track to meet its \$350 million goal at the end of 2016, with the conclusion of the sixth and final wave.



| PASTOR | PARISH | PERCENT OF GOAL |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Fr. Tirso S. Villaverde | St. Thomas of Canterbury | 178% |
| Fr. Mark Kalema | Our Lady of Peace | 142% |
| Msgr. Robert J. Dempsey | St. Philip the Apostle | 127% |

Community gift lifts *To Teach Who Christ Is* parish campaigns

The Canons Regular of St. John Cantius has donated \$50,000 to support *To Teach Who Christ Is* at the two parishes the religious community staffs.

"This campaign is really poised to do good for the Archdiocese," says Father Joshua Caswell, SJC, associate pastor of St. John Cantius Parish in Chicago. "We wanted to make sure our parishioners know that it's important to support this endeavor."

The gift will be divided between the two parishes the community staffs in the Archdiocese of Chicago: St. John Cantius and St. Peter in Volo. St. John Cantius, where the community was founded at the invitation of Cardinal Francis George, OMI, in 1998, will receive \$40,000. St. Peter, which the community has staffed since 2007, will receive the remaining \$10,000.



St. John Cantius Church, Chicago

Both parishes are participating in Wave IV of *To Teach Who Christ Is*. St. Peter is currently at 53 percent of its goal, and St. John Cantius is at 50 percent.

The Canons Regular of St. John Cantius has grown to 25 men during the time period in which the community has brought both historic parishes back to

life. In this way, the mission of the community and the mission of *To Teach Who Christ Is* are "very much aligned," Father Caswell says.

"Our community is about rebuilding, and that's what this campaign is about, building and rebuilding the Archdiocese," he explains.

Meetings are ‘filled with the Holy Spirit’

Taking time to allow the Holy Spirit to work has been key to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign at St. Mary Parish in Buffalo Grove.

“Our approach to parishioners has been to call upon their sense of stewardship and their sense of sacrificial giving,” says Father Dan Whiteside, pastor.

The parish has currently raised 48 percent of its \$1.9 million goal, mostly through one-on-one meetings with parishioners. Although Father Whiteside admits that such meetings can be difficult and time-consuming, they do build community. “A good meeting is actually filled with the Holy Spirit,” he says.

Parishioners have responded positively out of their sense of stewardship for the parish, as well as their desire to be part of the larger mission of the Archdiocese of Chicago — especially making Catholic education and formation accessible to as many people as possible.

“Folks believe in their Catholic foundations and want present and future generations to have the same foundations,” Father says.

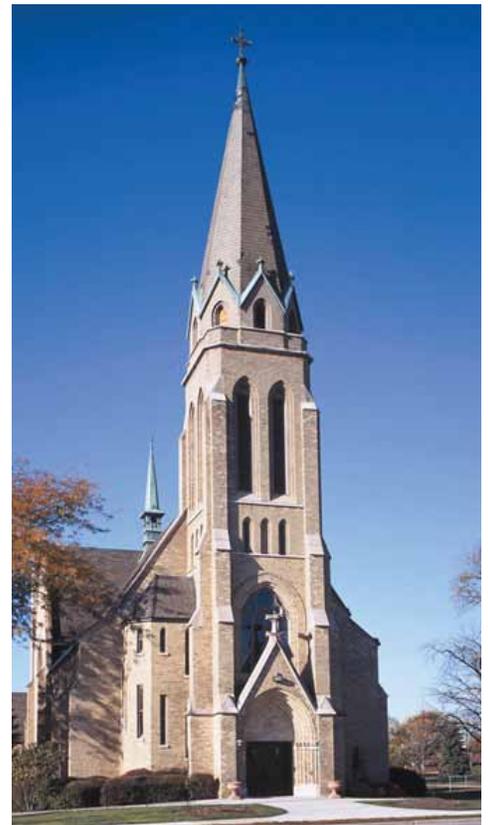
St. Mary plans to use the \$1.4 million that will remain at the parish for facility

improvements, including repairing the chapel and church roofs, replacing the flooring and repainting the interior, updating the sound system, and installing a sprinkler system and energy efficient lighting. The activity center’s roof will also be repaired, as well as the windows and floor tiles replaced and interior repainted. The parish school will see a new roof, too, as well as boilers, energy efficient lighting, fresh paint, and an upgraded security and access control system.

Charles and Nicole Perron and Donald and Diane Bartelt are serving as co-chairpersons for the parish campaign. Newly retired, Charles was happy to offer his services to Father Whiteside and *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

“It directly addresses the fundamental building block of our faith: to go out and teach,” he says. “It provides the tools to allow others to become better teachers, and for those to be taught an improved learning experience, which will help to deepen their faith.”

Charles was surprised to learn that more than 60 percent of his fellow parishioners support St. Mary on a regular basis. “This was over twice what I



thought,” Charles says. “It gave me confidence that though our task was large, it was doable because the majority of our parishioners understood the need to invest in their faith and that of the larger Church.”

DONOR PROFILE | Marge and Tony Schiavone



‘Tony and I prayed before we actually made our pledge.’

Parishioners of St. Celestine Parish for more than 25 years, Marge and Tony Schiavone have two reasons to be excited about *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

Not only will the campaign allow the Elmwood Park parish to update its facilities, it will benefit religious education throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago — a ministry to which the former longtime catechists are strongly committed.

“The children will benefit, and they are the future who will be carrying on with the faith and love instilled in them from their home and school life,” Marge says.

St. Celestine has a goal of \$815,000, and the parish plans to use the \$489,000 it will receive to convert current confessional space into a dual area for confessions and meetings, and also provide additional restroom facilities. Any funds raised over goal will be used to focus on programs identified during St. Celestine’s Parish Transformation process.

The parish is currently at 38 percent of goal, thanks to Marge and Tony’s gift and 36 others.

“Tony and I prayed before we actually made our pledge,” Marge says. “We felt that the projects for the parish, as well as the needs of the Archdiocese, were all things that would benefit the next generation on their faith journey.”



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CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total raised to date: \$203,931,648*

Percent of Goal: 58.2%

Cash received to date: \$55,564,080

Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000

Raised to date: \$89,621,538

Number of gifts: 30,534

Percent of goal: 35.8%

Cash received: \$35,653,953

Major gift goal: \$100,000,000

Raised to date: \$114,310,109

Number of gifts: 54

Percent of goal: 114.3%

Cash received: \$19,910,127

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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