

# TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation November 2015

Dear Friends,

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says “Let the children come to me.” For generations, children of all backgrounds have come to the Archdiocese of Chicago to be educated in our Catholic schools. Educating more than 82,000 in preschool through 12th grade, we serve more students than any other private school district in the country. We have obtained a well-earned reputation for academic excellence, achieving dozens of Blue Ribbon awards. More importantly, our schools immerse our students each day in our Catholic faith. We exist to evangelize, and are forming the next generation in faith to transform a troubled world.

I came to Chicago because I wanted to be part of the success story of Catholic education. *To Teach Who Christ Is* will help us to fulfill our educational mission. By dramatically expanding tuition assistance for our students, we assure that our schools are available to all. *To Teach Who Christ Is* will also bolster programs that recruit and form school leaders, and support important religious and academic programs.

I am enormously grateful for the generosity of the people of our Archdiocese. I look forward to seeing the continued growth and vibrancy of our Catholic schools!

Yours in Christ,



Jim Rigg, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

## Wave III parish perseveres, surpasses goal after two Commitment Weekends



*St. Joseph Parish will improve education technology at its school with To Teach Who Christ Is funds.*



As the new parish administrator at St. Joseph Parish in Round Lake, Father Julio Jimenez felt more comfortable engaging the whole parish, rather than a few families, in *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

“Everyone is responsible for the parish, not just 15 or 20 families,” he says. “I wanted everyone to participate.”

Father Jimenez also focused heavily on the local needs that *To Teach Who Christ Is* would fund. For four consecutive weekends at Mass, he played a different video on each of the parish’s four needs: replacing the church roof and heating system, resurfacing the parking lot, improving education technology at the school, and upgrading the church lighting to be energy efficient, controllable and softer.

Father Jimenez even managed to work the campaign theme into these facility projects by emphasizing his plea on evangelization. “Taking care of these issues right now will ensure that we can continue the mission of *To Teach Who Christ Is*,” he told parishioners. “Without a roof, we wouldn’t be here to continue to teach Christ, to form us.”

The parish held two Commitment Weekends, which brought in \$800,000 in gifts. Currently, St. Joseph has raised more than \$1.04 million, or 181 percent of its \$575,227 goal, and Father says he continues to receive pledges.

“It was a lot of work, but it paid off,” he says. “It was successful. People understand that what we want to do at the parish is simply *to teach who Christ is*.”

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TO TEACH  
WHO CHRIST IS

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE | Susan Parker



*'I hear people complain all the time, and I'm a doer. Complaining doesn't get the job done. I'd rather use the talents God has given me to be part of the solution.'*

Susan Parker was considering taking a sabbatical from the many ministries she is active in at Divine Infant Jesus Parish when her pastor, Father Michael Wanda, asked her to consider co-chairing the parish's *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

She quickly realized how much the Westchester parish would benefit from the campaign, so she put her plans for a year off temporarily on hold. "Our parish has so many needs," she says. "This, to me, is a great opportunity to make people aware that the parish needs things fixed."

Divine Infant Jesus will receive \$441,000 when it meets its campaign goal, and plans to use the majority of these funds for facility needs in the church, including replacing the sound system, repairing the leaky roof, and bringing the building up to code. In addition, 25 percent of the funds will be directed to the Father Charles Langan Scholarship Fund.

The sound system is especially important to Susan, as she has personally witnessed senior parishioners unable to

understand the homily and, therefore, its message.

Father Wanda asked Susan to share her thoughts on the campaign with her fellow parishioners during Mass. She told them that she prayed "hard and long" before making her five-year pledge to their spiritual home.

"After discerning, I realized it was Christ who inspired people before us to build and care for this parish," she says. "Now it's up to the Christ in us to maintain the work for those who will come after us to continue *to teach who Christ is*."

Susan became an active parishioner at Divine Infant eight years ago after participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Since then, she has served as a lector, a catechist and a choir member, and was on the Parish Pastoral Council and School Advisory Board.

"I hear people complain all the time, and I'm a doer," she says. "Complaining doesn't get the job done. I'd rather use the talents God has given me to be part of the solution."

## Campaign funds create new parish center

Parishioners of Old St. Mary's were recently treated to tours of their new parish center, which is being constructed with *To Teach Who Christ Is* funds. The Chicago parish has raised 74 percent of its \$1.85 million goal.

"The parish center looks amazing — much bigger and more beautiful than we expected," says Hannah Mulchrone. "The Mulchrone family is looking forward to utilizing the parish center for community events, meetings, games and so much more. We can't wait until it is completed!"



# OVER GOAL!

Congratulations to the following Wave III parishes and pastors for exceeding their Archdiocesan *To Teach Who Christ Is* goals!

PASTOR	PARISH	PERCENT OF GOAL
Fr. Honoratus Mwageni	SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago	225%
Fr. Tom McDermott, OP	St. Vincent Ferrer, River Forest	222%
Fr. Miguel Martinez	Immaculate Conception (88th Street), Chicago	216%
Fr. Robert Tonelli	St. Joseph, Wilmette	193%
Fr. Waldemar Wieladek, CSSR	St. Mary of Czestochowa, Cicero	187%
Fr. Julio C. Jimenez	St. Joseph, Round Lake	181%
Fr. Thadeo Mгимба	St. Gerard Majella, Markham	173%
Fr. Thomas Cima	St. Michael the Archangel, Chicago	172%
Fr. Esequiel Sanchez	St. Bede the Venerable, Chicago	163%
Fr. Britto Berchmans	St. Paul of the Cross, Park Ridge	161%
Fr. Jose Maria Garcia-Maldonado	Good Shepherd, Chicago	159%
Fr. Jim Kastigar	St. Mary of the Lake, Chicago	137%
Fr. Thadeo Mгимба	Ascension-St. Susanna, Harvey	133%
Fr. Michael Arkins, SSS	St. Eulalia, Maywood	130%
Fr. Peter Fernandes, SFX	St. Timothy, Chicago	127%
Fr. Rene Mena Beltra	St. Paul, Chicago Heights	126%
Fr. Christopher M. Gustafson	Our Lady of Ransom, Niles	124%
Fr. Jeremy Dixon	St. Vincent de Paul, Chicago	123%
Fr. George L. Schopp	Our Lady of Grace, Chicago	122%
Fr. Jason Torba	St. Ferdinand, Chicago	113%
Fr. Krzysztof Janczak	St. Richard, Chicago	112%
Fr. Walter Yepes	St. Roman, Chicago	108%
Fr. Wojciech Kwiecien	St. Blase, Argo	108%
Fr. Michael Furlan	St. Germaine, Oak Lawn	104%
Fr. Benedykt Pazdan	St. Bernadette, Evergreen Park	100%

## Campaign Update: Generosity continues across Archdiocese



### TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

*A Campaign for Parishes,  
Catholic Education and Faith Formation*

Gifts to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign now total nearly \$215 million, thanks to more than 33,000 generous gifts.

Archbishop Blase Cupich has conducted more than 50 individual meetings and raised more than \$26 million in gifts and pledges. 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.

Ten Wave IV parishes have now surpassed goal. The 56 parishes in the current wave have raised \$21.8 million, or 72 percent of their collective goal. These parishes have started conducting Commitment Weekends.

Wave III parishes have now raised more than \$25 million, or 127 percent of the wave's collective goal. All parishes have now conducted their Commitment Weekends.

More than 70 parishes will participate in Wave V, which begins after the New Year. Four Campaign Executive Committee orientations, to accommodate the wave's more than 2,000 families, will be held in January.



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## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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

Total raised to date: \$214,866,692\*

Percent of Goal: 61.3%

Cash received to date: \$58,623,277

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

Raised to date: \$100,539,249\*

Number of gifts: 33,049

Percent of goal: 40.2%

Cash received: \$38,447,483

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

Raised to date: \$114,327,443

Number of gifts: 54

Percent of goal: 114.3%

Cash received: \$20,175,794

\*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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