



TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

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

January 2017



Dear Friends,

I like to begin each new year by taking time to reflect on the blessings of the past year — not a difficult task

given the success of *To Teach Who Christ Is*. The campaign now has \$407 million in pledged commitments, far exceeding its \$350 million goal, and has received \$125 million from payments. In other words, we are right on track for these blessings to continue for years to come, as families continue to fulfill their pledges and parishes complete the projects they outlined during their campaigns.

So much has already been accomplished and, like you, we are excited to see the fruits of our efforts. I ask you to keep us up to date on what is taking place in your parish because of *To Teach Who Christ Is*, so we can share your good news in future newsletters and on our social media sites. Please e-mail your updates to toteachcampaign@archchicago.org or connect with us on either Facebook or Twitter at [@toteachcampaign](https://twitter.com/toteachcampaign).

I look forward to continuing to celebrate *To Teach Who Christ Is* with you. Wishing you a joyful and Christ-filled 2017.

Yours in Christ,

John T. Osterlund
Chief Development Officer

Final wave of campaign sees success



St. Alexander Parish in Palos Heights exceeded its To Teach Who Christ Is goal following a successful Commitment Weekend.

Wave VI is over goal — the fourth consecutive wave of parishes participating in *To Teach Who Christ Is* to do so.

The 59 parishes participating in the final wave of the campaign have collectively raised more than \$41 million of their \$38.4 million goal, thanks to more than 11,000 pledges.

“The success of any campaign is leadership, and the 59 pastors, 1,500 Campaign Executive Committee members and hundreds of additional volunteers are responsible for this incredible response,” says Brad Patterson, a Corporate Vice President for CCS Fundraising who has been managing *To Teach Who Christ Is* and the staff of parish campaign directors.

Every parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago was required to participate in *To Teach Who Christ Is*, which began in January 2013 to raise funds for parishes,

Catholic education and faith formation. The campaign has now raised more than \$407 million from nearly 70,000 gifts.

The more than 500 families that supported St. Thomas of Villanova’s campaign saw the tangible benefits for both the Palatine parish and the Archdiocese of Chicago, says Jane St. Pierre Murguia, a campaign co-chairperson along with fellow parishioners Nancy and Tom Hulsebosch.

“The archdiocesan programs supported by the campaign will strengthen and enhance Catholic education for current and future generations of children and adults,” she says. “In addition, our parish will benefit through campus safety and security investments, technology enhancements and other infrastructure investments.”

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St. Thomas of Villanova, which has raised 103 percent of its \$1.9 million goal, will also dedicate its share of campaign funds to build a rectory. “The campaign gives us the opportunity to thank our parish priests by building a rectory that will improve the quality of their lives,” Jane says.

Father Tom Rzepiela, Pastor, credits the “deep belief the parish’s pastoral leaders had in the mission of *To Teach Who Christ Is* for St. Thomas of Villanova’s success. “The St. Thomas of Villanova Parish family is faith filled and lives out their stewardship call,” he says. “Their generosity knew no bounds.”

‘The St. Thomas of Villanova Parish family is faith filled and lives out their stewardship call. Their generosity knew no bounds.’

St. Alexander Parish has raised 117 percent of its \$1.8 million goal, and CEC members Sandy and Guy Cadore say parishioners saw the campaign as a great way to fund much-needed projects at the parish.

The couple — St. Alexander parishioners for 30 years — worked together to meet personally with many of their fellow parishioners and talk about the needs of the parish. “We got to meet a lot of people from the parish that we hadn’t met before,” says Sandy, who credits her pastor, Father Marty Michniewicz, for creating excitement about the campaign.

The Palos Heights parish is dedicating its share of campaign funds to renovate the church, remove asbestos, remodel the parish center kitchen and lounge restrooms, and establish an endowment for the school and religious education.

“When they saw everything that was going to be done to the church, they were all very happy,” Sandy says. ☙

VOLUNTEER PROFILE | Mike Stanton



The night before the kickoff of St. Cajetan’s *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, Father Frank Kurucz, Pastor, wrote an e-mail to some members of the parish finance committee expressing his trepidation in asking people for money — much less raising the \$820,000 to reach its campaign goal.

“I wrote back to Father Frank, ‘Asking for money is easy as long as you have a good goal and you believe in it. I believe we have both,’” says Mike Stanton, a longtime parishioner and finance committee member who served as a member of St. Cajetan’s *To Teach Who Christ Is* Campaign Executive Committee.

The Chicago parish had a number of local needs that parishioners could connect with, including new windows and asbestos removal in the school, air conditioning for the gym, a baptismal font and digital organ for the church to complete the update of the church begun two years earlier, and a reflective and meditative garden dedicated to Mary in the courtyard.

“All of these projects were things that had been talked about for a number of years,” Mike says.

St. Cajetan is now at 123 percent of goal because “people could understand our needs and believed in our goals,” he explains. In addition, despite Father Kurucz’s initial trepidation, he did a “phenomenal job” asking for money and keeping the committee on task during the campaign.

Mike credits his involvement with and support of *To Teach Who Christ Is* to his belief in community. “St. Cajetan is a major part of this community,” he says. “Your home and community are only as good as the institutions of the community. It’s important that we support the most important institutions in our community — our parishes.” ☙



Welcoming access for all

Northbrook’s Our Lady of the Brook Parish has already directed *To Teach Who Christ Is* funds to three sets of new steel doors with automatic door openers. The worship space is now fully accessible for Mass and parish activities.

OVER GOAL!

Congratulations to the following Wave VI parishes and pastors for exceeding their *To Teach Who Christ Is* goals. The 59 parishes in Wave VI have collectively raised more than \$41.2 million.

PASTOR	PARISH	% OF GOAL
Father Lawrence M. Lisowski	Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph, Chicago	194%
Father Jose Murcia Abellan	Queen of the Universe, Chicago	185%
Father Kevin Feeney	Sheil Catholic Center, Evanston	178%
Father Richard J. Lo Bianco	Divine Savior, Norridge	159%
Father Jerome J. Jacob, Jr.	St. Mary of the Annunciation, Mundelein	154%
Father Francis Li	St. Therese Chinese Catholic Mission, Chicago	152%
Father Armand Ramirez Ruiz	St. Francis de Sales, Chicago	150%
Father Kenneth Carlson	St. Benedict, Blue Island	148%
Father Wayne F. Watts	St. John Berchmans, Chicago	146%
Father Michael J. Shanahan	Our Lady of Lourdes, Chicago	138%
Father Jeremiah M. Boland	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Glenview	137%
Father Grzegorz Gorczyca	St. John the Evangelist, Streamwood	136%
Father John B. Atoyebi	St. Clotilde, Chicago	136%
Father Salvador D. Hallegado	St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Chicago	133%
Father Michael A. Blicharski	Polish Mission, Willow Springs	129%
Father Frank A. Kurucz	St. Cajetan, Chicago	123%
Father Martin E. Michniewicz	St. Alexander, Palos Heights	117%
Father Patrick Render	St. Viator, Chicago	116%
Father Paul G. Seaman	St. Pascal, Chicago	115%
Father Oswaldo Guillen	Maternity B.V.M., Chicago	114%
Father Robert Heinz	Our Lady of the Brook, Northbrook	113%
Father David B. Krolczyk	St. James, Chicago Heights	111%
Father Brian Ardagh	St. Alphonsus, Lemont	109%
Father Antoni Bury	St. Bruno, Chicago	108%
Father Robert Fedek	Our Lady of Victory, Chicago	107%
Father Paul de Porres Whittington, O.P.	St. Margaret of Scotland, Chicago	105%
Father Michael J. Novick	St. Lawrence O'Toole, Matteson	103%
Father Thomas R. Rzepiela	St. Thomas of Villanova, Palatine	103%
Father Daniel W. Long, Jr.	Epiphany, Chicago	102%
Father Noel B. Reyes	St. Stephen Protomartyr, Des Plaines	100%
Father Dominic J. Grassi	St. Gertrude, Chicago	100%



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CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total raised to date: \$407,766,755*

Percent of goal: 116.5%

Non-revenue total: \$16,308,614

Cash received to date: \$124,494,267

Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000

Raised to date: \$247,674,535*

Number of gifts: 69,920

Percent of goal: 99%

Cash received: \$90,365,909

Major gift goal: \$100,000,000

Raised to date: \$143,783,605*

Number of gifts: 74

Percent of goal: 143.7%

Cash received: \$34,128,358

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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