



TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

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

February 2017

Dear Friends,

Since the launch of *To Teach Who Christ Is* in January 2013, 70,000 Catholic families representing every parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago have made a faith-filled decision to invest in their pastors and parishes, their Cardinal, and the tens of thousands of faithful who will benefit from their pledged commitment. Each day, I am driven to ensure the Department of Stewardship and Development staff not only helps these families fulfill their pledges but are enriched by the impact their investments are making — like how St. Bernadette families are enhancing adult faith formation.

Ensuring pledges are paid is vitally important to the success of *To Teach Who Christ Is*. As you will see on the back of this newsletter, \$129 million in pledge payments have been received on the more than \$400 million raised to date. Parishes receive their share of the funds from their campaigns as pledges are paid. So, for every dollar received from a pledge payment, 60 cents are directed to the parish and 40 cents to the archdiocese for scholarships, faith formation and critical facility issues. Once the amount paid reaches 100 percent of a parish's goal, it receives 100 percent of each dollar paid.

If you have a question about your pledge, I welcome you to connect with the campaign office at (312) 534-8500 or toteachcampaign@archchicago.org. We are here to provide you with a positive giving experience.

Yours in Christ,

John T. Osterlund
Chief Development Officer

Third annual *Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast* a success

Catholic elementary and high school educators and administrators in Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools are “planting the seeds of transformative education in our young people,” Dr. Jo Ann Rooney, the newly appointed President of Loyola University, told the more than 400 people gathered for the *Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast* at Chicago's Palmer House on January 24.

In the three years since its inception, this annual event has raised more than \$460,000 for the Caritas Scholars Program as well as programs of the Office of Catholic Schools. An early gift to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign funded Caritas, a trial scholarship program for the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust that has awarded scholarships to more than 4,000 qualifying children.

This year, *Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast* attendees were given the opportunity to text donations for scholarships. They then watched in real time as the amount donated rose to more than \$29,000 on a screen in front of the ballroom — with student volunteers cheering on their efforts.

Dr. Rooney served as the morning's keynote speaker. “It is through our Catholic faith tradition and our commitment to academic excellence in our Catholic Schools that we prepare students for lives of engagement with and service to one another,” she said. “This is the education we are celebrating, because it empowers the defenseless; it seizes ignorance, apathy and indifference; and it becomes part of the soul, the very being of our students driving them to be agents of positive change.”

The Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic school system serves more than 76,000 students in 217 schools across Cook and Lake counties. It boasts more National Blue Ribbon Schools than any other U.S. school system, public or private.



Cardinal Blase Cupich with Dr. Jo Ann Rooney, President of Loyola University and keynote speaker for the 2017 *Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast*

Continued on page 2



TO TEACH
WHO CHRIST IS

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
(312) 534-8500
toteachwhochristis.org
ensenarquienes Cristo.org

Connect with
To Teach Who Christ Is

 @toteachcampaign

 www.facebook.com/toteachcampaign

The breakfast took place on the eve of National Catholic Schools Week, an annual event celebrating Catholic education in the United States. “The 2017 theme of Catholic Schools Week succinctly underscores our educational mission: ‘Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service,’” Cardinal Blase Cupich noted. “Our Catholic schools instill values and give students a firm sense of their faith and dignity. With these values and virtues for guidance, they are well prepared to make a difference in the world.”



Thank you to our sponsors!

SILVER



BRONZE



**Mr. and Mrs.
James N. Perry, Jr.**

RED

**Mr. and Mrs.
Charles W. Mulaney, Jr.**



WHITE



**Andy and Mary Kenna
Ziegler and Dan Hermann**

Campaign enhances faith formation at Evergreen Park parish

Internationally acclaimed speaker Matthew Kelly will launch St. Bernadette’s speaker series in June, thanks to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

The Evergreen Park parish is directing \$86,000 of its campaign funds to faith formation efforts for adults. Establishing a speaker series was a top priority in its local case for support, as well as creating an enhanced theology course and introducing new technology to the Adult Faith Formation Center to upgrade the curriculum.

St. Bernadette’s pastor, Father Benedykt Pazdan, hopes the speaker series will not only inspire parishioners but also teach them more about Catholicism. “Catechetical education oftentimes stops with confirmation,” he says. “Giving lay people the tools to educate themselves about what they believe in will encourage them to evangelize and to defend their faith.”

Father Pazdan also feels that lay speakers can influence their peers in a way priests cannot. Their advice — especially about family issues — is based on personal experiences, he explains.

During “Living Every Day with Passion and Purpose,” Matthew Kelly will encourage attendees to apply Catholicism to every aspect of their lives, including work, dating and marriage, personal finances and parenting, according to the Dynamic Catholic website.

The June 9 talk is open to all, and tickets are \$39. For more details, go to the St. Bernadette website, www.stbernadettechurch.org.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000
Total raised to date: \$413,675,614*
Percent of goal: 118.1%
Non-revenue total: \$16,308,614
Cash received to date: \$129,423,345

Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000
Raised to date: \$252,070,895*
Number of gifts: 71,387
Percent of goal: 100.8%
Cash received: \$94,733,724

Major gift goal: \$100,000,000
Raised to date: \$145,296,105*
Number of gifts: 77
Percent of goal: 145.2%
Cash received: \$34,689,621

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests