

TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

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

March 2017

Dear Friends,

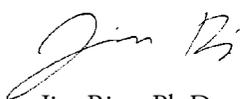
Catholic education has long been a priority in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Our 217 schools prepare more than 77,000 students for college and future careers, as well as enable them to know, love and serve Christ. Catholic schools are key to revitalizing our Church.

Thanks to the generosity of *To Teach Who Christ Is* donors, Catholic education will be a reality for families with financial need for years to come. I am excited to announce that scholarships funded through the campaign will be awarded as Phoenix Scholarships. We hope this name resonates the rebirth and hope synonymous with our region.

Building up the corpus of the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust, and providing funding to The Phoenix Scholarships, will take time — but we are off to an excellent start, with initial funds invested and scholarships being distributed in select Catholic schools. Between the Caritas Scholars Program and The Phoenix Scholarships, we are already making a difference in the lives of thousands of children.

Of course, it is vital to ensure that we are good stewards of the generous gifts entrusted to us. To that end, the Office of Catholic Schools has put into place criteria to ensure that the parishes and communities most in need are able to access these scholarship funds. On behalf of these children and everyone involved with our Catholic schools, I thank God for you!

Yours in Christ,



Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Stewardship Committee borne of parish *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign

Campaign Executive Committee members at Most Blessed Trinity were so dedicated to seeing the Waukegan parish exceed its *To Teach Who Christ Is* goal — which it did by 252.6 percent — that their pastor asked them to continue their service.

“After our successful campaign, we gathered them and said, ‘I think there is an important ministry called forth from this group,’” says Father Jacque Beltran, Pastor. “So, we decided to form a Stewardship Committee.”

Most Blessed Trinity — a consolidated parish that welcomes parishioners at three worship sites, Immaculate Conception and Holy Family in Waukegan, and Queen of Peace in North Chicago — received \$3.245 million from nearly 1,400 pledges and gifts. The new committee is now working to ensure pledges are fulfilled so the parish receives its share of campaign funds for the local projects and ministries detailed in its case statement.

The parish has started restoring the pillars in Immaculate Conception, and will begin replacing the roof there this spring.

“People are seeing the improvements, and they’re very happy,” Father Beltran says. “We are constantly reminding people that these projects are made possible through their generous donations.”

Sister Laura Goedken, OP, has been helping lead Most Blessed Trinity’s stewardship ministry since arriving in the area to live with two fellow Dominican Sisters during



Pillars at Most Blessed Trinity’s Immaculate Conception worship site are being restored with campaign funds.



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retirement. Formerly the development director for the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, she realized parishioners were beginning to fall behind on their pledge payments and advised the parish to act quickly.

The Stewardship Committee recommended Father Beltran update the parish on payments to the *To Teach Who Christ*

The new committee is now working to ensure pledges are fulfilled so the parish receives its share of campaign funds.

Is campaign through monthly bulletin inserts and pulpit announcements. “Members of the stewardship ministry are then available after those Masses for people who have questions or need an envelope,” Sister Goedken says.

In addition, five Stewardship Committee members spent a recent Friday evening together at the parish calling those who have fallen behind. According to Sister, some of those contacted promised to pay on their pledges immediately, while others needed to contact the campaign office to update their addresses or arrange a new payment plan. “We felt very positive about our phone calls and getting the messages out,” she says.

Most Blessed Trinity will receive more than \$2.5 million when its pledges are paid in full. Besides the work at Immaculate Conception, parish plans include increasing the narthex and lobby and adding seating at Holy Family, investing in a fire safety system and a new parking lot at Queen of Peace, and creating a Generational Fund for long-term needs at all three worship sites.

THE PHOENIX SCHOLARSHIPS

Introducing The Phoenix Scholarships

Scholarships available through the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust now have a name: The Phoenix Scholarships.

Strengthening Catholic education was a key element of *To Teach Who Christ Is*, with up to \$150 million in campaign funds directed to the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust. The Phoenix Scholarships will ensure access to Catholic education for families throughout Cook and Lake counties.

Who is eligible for a Phoenix Scholarship?

Families with children in any school listed in the Official Catholic Directory for the Archdiocese of Chicago who demonstrate financial need and meet certain other criteria established by the Trust Board are eligible for a Phoenix Scholarship. Initially, the Trust Board has elected to prioritize scholarships for families and schools with the greatest need. As the Trust endowment grows, the Trust Board expects that the program will expand to serve as many students as possible while protecting the long-term viability of the endowment.

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How does a family apply?

Families should complete and submit the standard FACTS financial aid application from their schools. Verified applications are then sent to the Office of Catholic Schools for administrative processing. The Office of Catholic Schools will send applicants an acknowledgment of its receipt of the application. The Trust Board has created a Scholarship Delegation Committee to review and approve scholarship awards on behalf of the Trust Board. Once a scholarship award decision has been made, applicants will receive a letter from the Office of Catholic Schools notifying them of the award decision and the amount of the scholarship. Awards will be made on a rolling basis.

What does the scholarship cover?

Generally, scholarships may cover up to 50 percent of a student’s tuition with the balance paid by the parents or guardians of the student. The scholarship may be renewable annually based on a continued demonstration of need and meeting certain other criteria.

For more information about The Phoenix Scholarships, please e-mail PhoenixScholarships@archchicago.org.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total raised to date: \$416,787,878*

Percent of goal: 119%

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

Cash received to date: \$133,349,949

Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000

Raised to date: \$255,183,159*

Number of gifts: 72,169

Percent of goal: 102%

Cash received: \$98,446,784

Major gift goal: \$100,000,000

Raised to date: \$145,296,105*

Number of gifts: 77

Percent of goal: 145.2%

Cash received: \$34,903,165

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests