



# TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation August 2017

Dear Friends,

Let the new school year begin! This month, we welcome over 75,000 students into the 214 Catholic schools of the Archdiocese. This is an exciting and joyous time of year. We have many, many reasons to celebrate our schools, due in no small part to the support our schools are receiving from the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

This fall, we are releasing our new Strategic Plan for Catholic Schools, which will guide us with hope and confidence for the next four years. *To Teach Who Christ Is* is the foundation of our plan, through providing innovations in instruction, new resources for early childhood education, training for teachers and school leaders, and more. Our families are already benefitting from the campaign, as we continue to introduce new scholarships through the needs-based Phoenix Scholarship Fund. This fund, seeded by TTWCI, is helping to remove the economic obstacles that prevent families from joining our schools.

The future is bright for our Catholic schools, and I am enormously grateful to our many supporters. May God bless our schools in the new year! The best is yet to come!

Yours in Christ,

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Archdiocese of Chicago

## St. Vincent Ferrer Church Creates a Sense of Community with Construction of Kyte Hall

Established in 1931, St. Vincent Ferrer Church is one of several Dominican parishes in the Chicagoland area. The parish reach spans across the southern half of Elmwood Park and the northern half of River Forest, and is home to more than 1,000 people who attend mass on a weekly basis and 283 students enrolled at the parish's school.



Above are recent images and an artist's rendering of Kyte Hall, a multipurpose space that will also serve as a lunchroom for the parish's school.

"When I arrived at the parish five years ago, I was struck by the fact that we had limited space for meetings, especially with the amount of people attending our parish and utilizing our facilities," said Father Thomas McDermott, OP, Pastor, St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church. "In fact, at the time of my arrival, we only had one meeting room that would accommodate more than 12 people at a time."

A few years after Father Thomas arrived and began thinking about ways to create new space for their parishioners, the Archdiocese contacted the parish about *To Teach Who Christ Is*. Knowing this was a campaign that would allow the parish to fund its own capital projects, Father Thomas, the other priests on staff, and its business manager

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discussed whether or not they wanted to renovate an existing room in the basement of the gym, or consider putting up a new building that would connect to the church.

After meeting with many parishioners and mindfully praying about their decision, Father Thomas and his team decided to move forward with a multipurpose hall that would also serve as a lunchroom for the parish's school.

Construction on Kyte Hall began in April 2017 and is expected to be finished by mid-October. The building is 7,065 square feet and on the same level of the church, meaning parishioners and students will be able to enter into the new area without going outside or up and down the stairs. The new hall will bridge the space between the southwest corner of the church building and the north end of the parish center and is named in memory of the parish's late beloved associate pastor, Father Michael Kyte, OP.

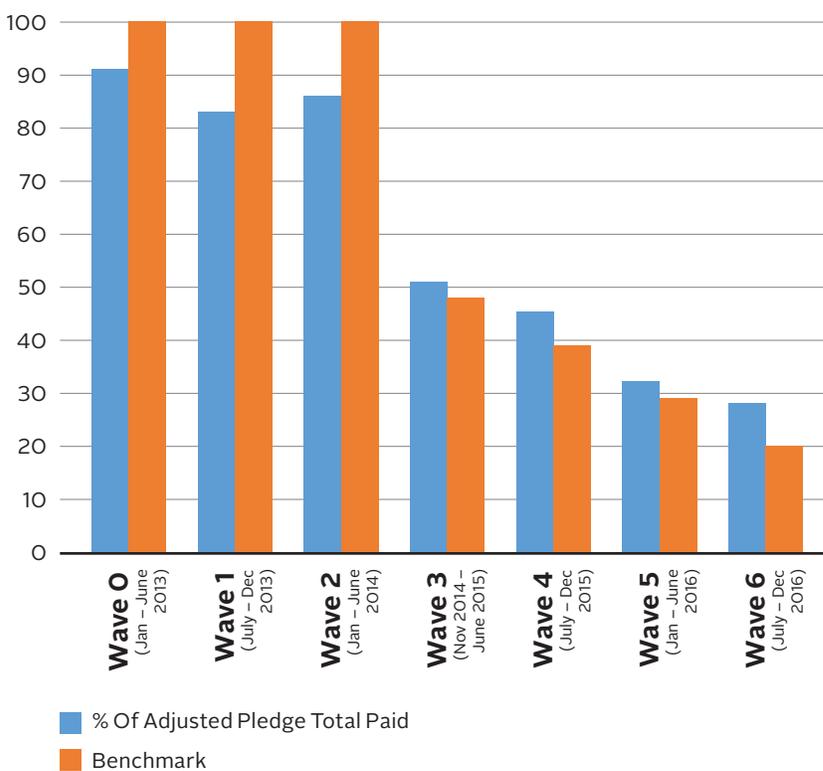
"We are so grateful the Archdiocese approached us with the opportunity to be a part of this campaign," said Father Thomas. "Our new building will serve as a common area and venue for social and education activities – bringing our parish together. We have our parishioners to thank for their outstanding generosity."

The first wave of the campaign was very successful with the parish raising \$2,192,000, and pledges exceeding the cost of the new hall. In addition, the parish raised \$451,000 for the Archdiocese to go towards Catholic schools and religious education programs. To stay up-to-date on construction progress, please visit [svfparish.org](http://svfparish.org).

# TTWCI Benchmark and Pledge Fulfillment Report

The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign began in parishes in January 2013 with the Pilot Phase and was completed in December 2016 with Wave 6 – seven parish waves of activity to complete more than 300 individual parish campaigns. The chart you see here is the culmination of tracking and comparing pledge fulfillment to established benchmarks. Waves 0, 1 and 2 have completed the campaign, and the average pledge fulfillment of these three waves was 86 percent fulfillment on initial pledges. Waves 3, 4, 5 and 6 are 26 months, 20 months, 14 months and eight months into a 60-month pledge fulfillment period, and we're delighted to share that each is tracking above the benchmark.

TTWCI Benchmarking Report by Wave



The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign will make a transformational impact on every parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Thank you to the pastors, staff and campaign volunteers who are promoting the impact of *To Teach Who Christ Is* dollars on local parish projects.

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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

Total Raised to Date: \$423,921,464\*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$154,742,650

Percent Paid to Date: 44%

\*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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