

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

July 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The slower pace of summer allows us to reflect on our lives and accomplishments. We can also look ahead and plan for the coming months. When we take advantage of these reflective moments, we see more clearly the importance of our communities of faith, our parishes.

Every parish shares the same rhythms of worship, faith formation and service. But each parish is also unique in its people, its needs, its culture and its history. Together the parishes of the Archdiocese of Chicago form a family of families linked together.

Your generous support of the parishes through *To Teach Who Christ Is* has enabled local communities to embrace their common identity as gatherings of Jesus' disciples. Your generosity also supports parishes that address the particular needs they face: faith formation of children and adults, peace-making in troubled neighborhoods, food for the poor, the maintenance of buildings where people gather, and so many other things as well.

God bless you for your generosity and during this sabbath time of summer, may the good Lord enable you to rest and reclaim a deeper sense of how you belong to Jesus in the Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Wave Three Parish, St. Paul of the Cross, Exceeds More than Half of Goal Before the Campaign is Publicized

Serving Catholics in Park Ridge for more than 100 years, St. Paul of the Cross parish was established by the Passionist Fathers in 1911. Today, the parish has grown from a small community to almost 5,000 registered households, recently exceeding its *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign goal of \$2.4 million and reaching a pledge total of nearly \$4 million.



Pictured above are renovations made to St. Paul of the Cross' upper church and Holy Family Chapel.

In 2014, the parish formed a capital campaign committee with members drawn from the various sectors of the parish to help reach their goal. By implementing a faith-filled, volunteer led campaign, including personally reaching out to donors and allowing families to reflect and pray about the amount they were comfortable giving, the parish's pledges totaled more than \$1.4 million before the campaign went public. To continue momentum, Father Britto Berchmans and his committee organized a few meet and greet events where the team connected with parishioners to speak with them about investing in the parish plans.

"I found that a personal invitation to participate in the campaign without applying too much pressure was most successful," said Father Britto. "We had a total of 700 families participate in our campaign. We should all be striving to engage with every family in our parish."

Continued on back

Continued from front

When the parish was initially approached to become involved in the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign Father Britto admits he was a bit hesitant because he didn't know what to expect.

"Thanks to the help of my committee, the generosity of our parishioners, and seeing how the fruits of the campaign strengthened our parish, I am more than happy with our decision to become involved in the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign," said Father Britto. "St. Paul of the Cross has always been a well-maintained parish, but now the campus and the buildings look even more beautiful. We feel a sense of satisfaction that this community will flourish for at least another fifty years thanks to the campaign."

As a result of campaign funds, the parish was able to paint the upper church (something that had not been maintained for 30 years), renovate the lower church and build a playground for the more than 2,000 children who are members of the parish. In addition, there's now an accessible bathroom in the upper church, improved security on campus and a new phone system. Additional funding will go towards installing an elevator in the Kinane Center, which houses the perpetual adoration chapel frequently used by seniors and others, as well as renovating the church bathrooms.

"Without the push from the Archdiocese and the funds of the campaign, we would not have completed these projects," said Father Britto. "We are extremely grateful to be a part of the bigger Church and are humbled that our contribution will benefit other communities within the Archdiocese."



With more than 2,000 children attending St. Paul of the Cross, funds were used to build a playground for families to use.

About St. Paul of the Cross

Home to a majority of young families and seniors, St. Paul of the Cross takes great pride in helping those in need. Over the past several years, the parish has funded building churches in South America and Africa, built a community center for "untouchables" in India, aided earthquake victims in Haiti and assisted wounded veterans in their attempt to find a home. The parish's food pantry serves many families who receive fresh vegetables from their centennial garden tended by parishioners.

St. Paul of the Cross' many ministries fulfill the spiritual needs of young and old. The Women's Guilds and Men's Group engage several hundreds of parishioners who enhance the life of the parish and their Catholic school has an enrollment of about 610 students, with their religious education program serving more than 1,250 children and young people.

New To Teach Who Christ Is Reminder Statements

This month, donors will begin to receive new reminder statements – a letter outlining and updating the donor's campaign pledge. The new statements acknowledge a donor's most recent payment, provide a warmer donor experience through a brief narrative of invitation and thanks, identify the benefits of completing the gift utilizing online giving and provide contact information for additional assistance. The new statements were developed following a review of the most frequently asked questions from donors and parishes concerning the reminder statement.

The Stewardship and Development office is dedicated to listening, learning and adapting to the suggestions from donors. We hope you will find the new reminder more informative. In addition, we hope consistent messaging regarding the merits of online giving will come across clearly in these redesigned reminder.

Thank you for your continued support and helpful suggestions.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$415,866,208*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 119%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$151,435,768

Percent Paid to Date: 43%

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



835 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611

tel 312.534.8500

toteachwhochristis.org | ensenarquienes Cristo.org



*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests



@toteachcampaign



www.facebook.com/toteachcampaign