



# TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is an expression I recently heard: *A day is long, but a year is short.* While oftentimes I feel the days pass quite quickly, it's hard to believe we announced *To Teach Who Christ Is* surpassed its \$350 million goal this month just one year ago. The year, in this case, seems to have raced by.

But with that said, when I reflect on the amazing work accomplished as a result of TTWCI, I know this year passed with purpose, with accomplishment and with eyes toward the next steps of what we can achieve together. Due to the generosity of people like you, our Church and parishes have been able to embark on meaningful projects, from infrastructure improvements to program expansion and offering new opportunities for education in our nationally renowned Catholic school system. As I watch this progress unfold as a result of your generosity, I am simply grateful.

The campaign is currently in the pledge fulfillment phase. This means the next several years are undeniably important to our work through *To Teach Who Christ Is*, as parishes receive their funds from pledge payments. All support is important, and your contributions will make this the most successful capital campaign in the history of the Church.

We have already accomplished so much, and I am filled with promise and hope as I look to the days and year ahead, which will once again, no doubt, race by.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich  
Archbishop of Chicago

## Sacred Heart's Independent Campaign Reaches Locally and Globally

About 30 minutes north of downtown Chicago is Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Serving nearly 1,000 families, its mission of kindness and generosity is as beautiful as the parish itself, and rooted deeply in the Gospel, Sacred Heart's parish, pastor and people have worked to find opportunities to be stewards of compassion and social justice for over a century.

So, in 2014, when the independent campaign option was offered to parishes through the *To Teach Who Christ Is* initiative, Sacred Heart knew it was the perfect opportunity to seek support to balance their unique efforts with the greater mission of the Archdiocese. The result was a comprehensive feasibility study followed by the official launch of the *Legacy of the Heart* campaign in January of 2017, which surpassed its \$2.87 million goal and raised just over \$3.2 million.



Renowned speaker and author, Tracy Welliver, shares thoughts on everyday stewardship with Sacred Heart parishioners, and Santa makes his annual trip to kneel and pray at Sacred Heart's crèche. Part of the support from the campaign helped with structural improvements at Sacred Heart.

"When determining our focus for *Legacy of the Heart*, we took time to listen and react to parishioner feedback," said Fr. Steven Lanza, pastor at Sacred Heart. "We finally determined to balance our campaign efforts to go towards critical maintenance for our aging building facilities, and to provide support for other parishes in the city and other parts of the world. Parishioners responded with enormous enthusiasm and generosity – we are thrilled to

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have surpassed our goal and are grateful for the sacrificial kindness of so many good stewards of God's blessings to us."

Locally, support through *Legacy of the Heart* went toward to the Church, school, parish office building and rectory, and the parish contributed 40 percent of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* assigned goal for the shared ministries of the Archdiocese. Beyond its walls, Sacred Heart's sharing parishes, St. Jean Baptiste in Haiti, which was devastated by Hurricane Matthew in 2016, and St. Columbanus, located in Chicago's Park Manor neighborhood, will be greatly impacted by the campaign. Additionally, the Father Paul Foundation that supports group homes for those involved in tragedies connected to the civil war in Sri Lanka will receive support because of the success of *Legacy of the Heart*.

"Sacred Heart is a little church that, through the Holy Spirit, has always fought above its weight in its care for our local community and global missions. It was no surprise the response was characteristically generous when it came time to support the parish and Catholic community through *Legacy of the Heart*," said Brian Norton, a co-chair of the campaign. "Through this campaign, we will be able to replace the school boilers, repair stained glass, replace the roof on the church and rectory, and repaint and make updates to offices, among other things, to ready Sacred Heart for the next 100 years of service. And, in true Sacred Heart fashion, *Legacy of the Heart* will help others locally and around the world; the dedication and generosity of this little church is overwhelming and humbling."

## Catching Up with Bishop Jack Gorman

In September, we spoke of Labor Day and those who fulfill the mission of *To Teach Who Christ Is*. This month, we feature a steward of the campaign and share a resounding thanks to Bishop Jack Gorman.

Ordained in 1952, Bishop Gorman began his first assignment at St. Andrews. He went on to teach at Quigley and then college seminary, and helped open the College of Niles, where he was head of the psychology department. Bishop Gorman was rector at the major seminary of St. Mary of the Lake, pastor at St. Michael's in Orland Park for 13 years, auxiliary bishop of Chicago, vicar general under Cardinal Bernardin, and he served as vicar of one of the Archdiocese's vicariates. In addition to all of this great work, he led the Pastor Advisory Council (PAC) for *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

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The PAC was comprised of a diverse group of priests from around the Archdiocese who came together regularly to answer letters and questions from pastors about the campaign. The group guided parishes and handled each query with experience, clarity and great concern for their fellow pastors.

"The point of the PAC, and my role, was to make sure each participating parish felt confident and was set up for success," Bishop Gorman said.

And they did. With the help of Bishop Gorman and the PAC, many parishes exceeded their goals, and 70,000 families pledged support through *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

"We saw a great response when Cardinal Cupich joined our Archdiocese and encouraged the campaign. The positive momentum made it clear how dearly Catholics in this Archdiocese love their parishes, respect the Church's historical presence and have confidence in its future," said Bishop Gorman. "What's equally impressive is how parishes met this generosity in kind, using funds from the campaign on initiatives that benefit parishioners."

As a contributor to the success of *To Teach Who Christ Is*, Bishop Gorman finds parallels between the program and the mission of the Church.

"You can see it in the title," says Bishop Gorman. "*To Teach Who Christ Is* – to help us understand who Jesus is, and how we can be stewards of His message – that's the central part of the program and the overarching mission of our Church. I'm proud of this campaign and how it has and continues to bring out the generosity, the good and the Christ-like nature of those who support it."

Now in retirement, Bishop Gorman resides at Our Lady of the Woods. We are grateful for the meaningful work and the leadership he has dedicated to the Archdiocese of Chicago and *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

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## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000**

Total Raised to Date: \$419,085,929\*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 120%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$160,466,701

Percent Paid to Date: 46%

\*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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