

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

August 2014

Dear Friends,

Over the last several months, I have been taking time to travel throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago, meeting with pastors about the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign. These conversations have not only been enlightening and helpful to our planning, they have reinforced, for me, the importance of the campaign to local parish communities throughout Cook and Lake counties.

Above all, the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign seeks to strengthen parishes. A full 60 percent of funds each parish raises up to goal remains at the parish, and parishes that raise more than the goal keep 100 percent of the overage. Many of the 107 parishes that have already conducted parish-based campaigns have seen the value in exceeding their targets, and have set their own higher goals so they can tackle significant projects.

I'm pleased to report that as of July 31, parishes have received \$6,993,220 from the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign. This is a direct result of the generosity of thousands of Catholics who have already pledged a gift. On behalf of the many pastors and parishes who are already reaping the benefits of this vital effort, I thank you.

Please pray for the parish communities that will start the campaign in the coming weeks.

In Christ,

Father Peter Snieg Moderator of the Curia

#### Scholarships make a difference for family, Our Lady of Charity School in Cicero



Five-year-old Jandel is excited to start kindergarten this fall at Our Lady of Charity School, and learn his letters and numbers.

"I would like to read," he says.

His parents are simply grateful Jandel and his older sister, Maribel, will benefit from a Catholic education, thanks in part to scholarships funded by gifts to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

"I know this is an effort of many people helping my family to achieve this dream of having our children in a Catholic school," says Norma Lagunas, the children's mother.

For the 2014-15 school year, 1,033 students have already been promised Caritas scholarship grants.

Members of St. Francis of Rome Parish in Cicero, Norma and her husband, Jose Angel Morales, decided to enroll their children in Catholic school after Maribel was bullied in public school and her grades dropped. The family was set to make the sacrifice to send her, along with Jandel, to the Cicero school before learning about the Caritas Scholars Program, which provides scholarships covering 50 percent of a student's tuition for three years. Jose notes that they had planned to cut back on basic necessities, including food and clothing, to make sure their son and daughter were in a safe, faith-filled environment.

"We wanted our children to be formed in the faith, and our faith from home continued at school," Norma says.

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1



The children began attending Our Lady of Charity School for the 2013-14 school year, when Maribel was in the fourth grade and Jandel was in the pre-kindergarten program. Maribel was one of 630 students who received a Caritas scholarship during the program's pilot year.

The Office of Catholic Schools, which administers the Caritas Scholars Program, awarded \$1,142,489 for the 2013-14 school year. For the 2014-15 school year, 1,033 students have already been promised scholarship grants totaling \$1,714,700. The Caritas Scholars Program receives funding from the newly established Catholic Education Scholarship Trust, an integral element of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

#### "We wanted our children to be formed in the faith, and our faith from home continued at school."

"The overwhelming emotion families feel is gratitude," says Katie Olson, principal of Our Lady of Charity School. Caritas scholarships have brought 16 new students to the school, and their families tend to give back through volunteering.

"We're all giving what we're able to give," she says. "Their gifts come in the form of their presence and their time."

Norma and Jose have noticed a change in Maribel, who will enter the fifth grade this fall. She's happier, and her grades have improved. They attribute this to teachers at Our Lady of Charity School showing students how to "help one another and respect one another in the reflection of Jesus."

With Jandel beginning kindergarten, both he and Maribel are receiving Caritas scholarships for the coming school year. Being able to provide for their children in a balanced way — Catholic education and basic needs — is a blessing for the family.

"We want to leave a treasure of faith to our children," Norma says. "We think this is the best gift we can leave to them."



# Establishing a named scholarship endowment

Individuals or families can establish a permanent named scholarship fund with a gift to the Catholic Educational Scholarship Trust.

Many donors who establish a new endowment choose to name it for an individual, their family or a saint.

The board of the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust reviews all endowment naming opportunities, and makes any decisions regarding naming endowments. There is a minimum contribution level for creating a named endowment, and those who create named endowments may create some designations for the distribution of scholarships.

One donor recently created the San Juan Diego Scholarship Fund to support students of Hispanic heritage attending Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Others have created endowment funds to support students in specific regions.

For more information on creating a new named scholarship endowment, please contact the campaign office at (312) 534-8500 or toteachcampaign@archchicago.org.

#### DONOR PROFILE

Remembering Father Bill Eddy



To Teach Who Christ Is campaign supporter Father Bill Eddy passed away suddenly on June 7.

Father Eddy was passionate about the mission of the campaign, and stressed its importance to his parishioners at St. Hilary Parish in Chicago. He contributed one of the lead gifts to the parish campaign, inspiring many others with his generosity.

The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, he wrote to parishioners, "provides a chance for us to secure the witness of our parish for generations to come."

Please join us in praying for Father Eddy, and to his flock at St. Hilary Parish as they mourn his loss.

## Campaign transition period continues

The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign is in the midst of a transition this summer, with new consulting firm CCS Fundraising beginning its work on individual parish campaigns and major gift fundraising.

"A 'rapid review' planning process focused on strategic conversations with pastors and lay leaders has been underway, and we will be receiving a report from CCS in September," says Peter de Keratry, campaign manager. "The revised campaign plan will include a greater emphasis on local parishes and intensive support of the pastor and volunteers throughout the entire campaign timeline."

Parishes will receive details about the revised timeline in the coming weeks, he adds.

CCS Fundraising has its home base in Chicago. CCS consultants will be readily available to pastors, parish volunteers and others involved in the campaign.

To date, nearly 20,000 individuals have contributed more than \$125 million to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

"Please pray in thanksgiving for this generosity and for the generosity of those yet to be involved in the campaign," Peter says. "Together we will help our parishes and the shared ministries of our Archdiocese."

### CASE ELEMENT: Grounding students in faith and virtue

Gifts to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign have created a new endowment fund earmarked specifically for scholarships to children in Catholic schools in Cook and Lake counties.

The Catholic Education Scholarship Trust is an independent trust, for which Northern Trust serves as the directed trustee. This endowment fund is invested to create spendable income as well as to achieve long-term appreciation of capital. Scholarship awards are made to qualified students as income is available.

A scholarship trial is currently underway in the form of the Caritas Scholars Program. These scholarships are awarded for three years and follow the child, regardless of whether or not they transfer to another Catholic school in the Archdiocese. Families are required to contribute to the cost of education to demonstrate their commitment.





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#### CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total raised to date: \$127,441,521\*

Percent of Goal: 36.4%

Cash received to date: \$23,246,290

Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000

Raised to date: \$38,913,052\*

Number of gifts: 19,589

Percent of goal: 14.9%

Cash received: \$12,353,718

Major gift goal: \$100,000,000

Raised to date: \$88,528,469\*

Number of gifts: 30

Percent of goal: 88.5%

Cash received: \$10,892,572

\*Includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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