



TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation September/October 2014



Dear Friends in Christ,

With the help of God's grace, I will celebrate my 78th birthday this coming January. I submitted a letter of resignation as Archbishop of Chicago to our Holy Father on my 75th birthday in 2012, as required by Canon Law. While waiting for the Pope's appointment of the ninth Archbishop of Chicago, Archbishop Blase Cupich, I reflected often on our Church in Chicago and, more personally, on the legacy I will leave it when I am gone.

With the future in mind, we launched the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign to strengthen our local parishes while also supporting Catholic education and faith formation. I am proud to report that your more than 20,000 gifts are already making a difference, and will continue to do so for years to come. I take great pride in speaking with Archbishop Cupich about your generosity, a sign of God's Spirit at work in our lives.

To be sure that future generations may encounter Christ, I have also decided to leave what I can as a gift to the schools of the Archdiocese of Chicago in my will — my final prayerful expression of Christian stewardship. Similarly, I now ask you to reflect on your legacy. Your legacy gift, such as a bequest to your parish, a specific ministry or the campaign, will support the Church for future generations.

I am deeply grateful for your generosity and prayers for the campaign's success. I hope you will continue to keep the ministry of the Church in your prayers. You and those you love will remain in mine.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

Campaign funds to help 'bring Jesus and the Gospels to people of all ages'



Each September, parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago celebrate Catechetical Sunday, a day when catechists are commissioned in their vocation so they may go forth and make known the love of Christ and His holy Church.

"Catechetical leaders bring Jesus and the Gospels to people of all ages in parishes through religious education," says Maria "Maruja" Sedano, director of the

Archdiocesan Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry. "They help others to reflect on their Catholic faith and understand its purpose in society today."

An integral element of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign is providing funding for the formation of these men and women who nurture our faith community. A full \$10 million of campaign funds will assist religious education directors (DREs) and coordinators (CREs), as well as youth ministry coordinators (CYMs), obtain the coursework required for the Archdiocesan certification process.

Maruja explains that the initial focus will be to provide scholarships for those serving as coordinators of religious education in parishes. Unlike DREs, who typically earn master's degrees and are full-time employees, coordinators are oftentimes volunteers who have few other funding opportunities for the courses necessary to complete a Certificate of Studies in Catechetical Leadership. This is required for Archdiocesan certification as a CRE, CYM and coordinator of adult faith formation (CAFF).

Essentially, Maruja notes, the campaign will help "provide qualified leaders for parishes."

The Archdiocesan Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry, in conjunction with the Catholic Schools Office and the University of Saint Mary of the

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Lake/Mundelein Seminary, established the Certificate of Studies in Catechetical Leadership in 2008. The program requires eight core theological courses and five core ministerial courses, which students typically complete in two to three years.

The Office for Catechesis and Youth

Ministry has identified seven students currently enrolled in the program who are in need of financial help from campaign-funded scholarships, according to Maruja. The coming years will bring more, as parishes in economically challenged areas continue the trend of relying

on religious education coordinators for burgeoning religious education classes.

Maria Erazo and Teodula Mondragon, religious education coordinators at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Chicago, recently completed the Certificate of Studies in Catechetical Leadership coursework. They are now seeking Archdiocesan certification with the Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry.

“Our mission, our commitment is to teach our children to fall in love with Jesus, and to teach the real values of the Church,” says Maria. “We are only instruments, and it is important to us to teach the next generation the correct way.”

Maria and Teodula’s education has been invaluable to the parish, which will have nearly 300 children enrolled in its religious education program this year and 20 certified catechists teaching them, says Father Michael Shanahan, pastor.

“They received enormous enrichment on the traditions and teachings of the Church, to really ground them in the work that they are doing,” he says. “They are absolutely dedicated to giving children values for life and engaging our catechists. I can’t say enough about it.”

Eight Catholic schools receive Blue Ribbon recognition



The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign congratulates the eight Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago recently recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education.

Since 1982, when the U.S. Department of Education began awarding Blue Ribbons, our Catholic schools have received 83 Blue Ribbon Awards, more than any other school system in the country. This year’s awardees are St. Cletus School in La Grange; SS. Faith, Hope, and Charity School in Winnetka; Holy Cross School in Deerfield; St. Hubert School in Hoffman Estates; St. John the Evangelist School in Streamwood; St. Mary School in Buffalo Grove; Prince of Peace School in Lake Villa; and Saint Viator High School in Arlington Heights.

“The Blue Ribbon Award validates what we already know: Great school communities abound in the Archdiocese of Chicago,” said Sister M. Paul McCaughey, O.P., superintendent. “We are grateful to the families, staff, and students who make every day one of excellence in learning within a community of faith.”

Campaign re-engages following ‘rapid review’ process

The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign is restarting this fall following a “rapid review” process by its new fundraising firm, CCS Fundraising.

“We are thankful for the support and patience pastors and parish leaders have shown through the transition process,” said Bishop Francis Kane, vicar general and auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago and chair of the campaign steering committee.

Over the summer, a team of CCS Fundraising consultants interviewed 71 pastors, lay leaders and Archdiocesan officials, and evaluated the campaign policies, materials and systems as well as parish and lead gift efforts. The firm now has a clear vision of the changes needed for the remainder of the campaign, according to Peter Hoskow, principal and managing director of CCS Fundraising.

He points out that more parishes lie ahead in the campaign than behind: 271 with goals totaling more than \$195 million.

To date, the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign has raised more than \$130 million through major gifts and parish efforts. Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., and a group of volunteers have raised \$88.5 million through the major gift effort, while parishes have raised an additional \$41.7 million for the campaign.

The campaign’s third wave has been condensed and divided into two parts. A select number of parishes will begin their efforts this fall, and another 40 will launch at the beginning of 2015. The overall timetable has been revised and extended to De-

ember 2016 to accommodate the pause in the campaign over the summer, the revised Wave III and the addition of a Wave VI.

Campaign manager Peter de Keratry explains that CCS consultants will work closely with parishes in the new model, helping the pastor and his staff determine their needs and develop a strong case for support, as many pastors had requested.

“We are confident that the new model will help us achieve our \$350 million goal, and greatly benefit parishes as well as the schools and ministries of the Archdiocese,” he says.

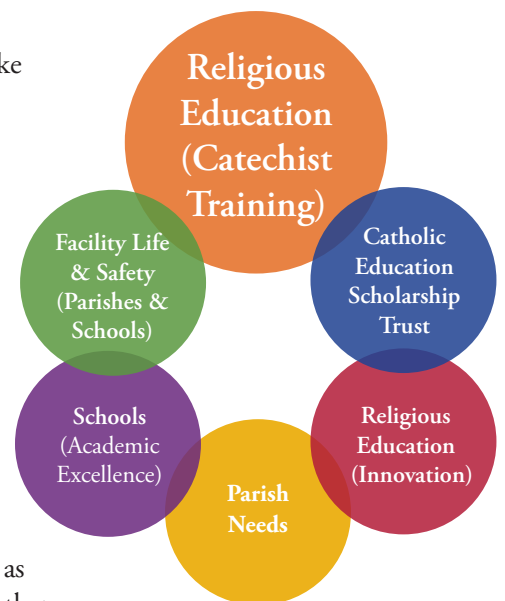
Wave	Timetable	Parishes
Wave IIIa	Fall 2014 to June 2015	15
Wave IIIb	February to August 2015	40
Wave IV	July to December 2015	72
Wave V	January to June 2016	72
Wave VI	July to December 2016	72
Total	September 2014 to December 2016	271

CASE ELEMENT: Training catechetical leaders to teach the Word

Beginning with parents and extending to all members of our community, the call to make known the love of Christ and His holy Church both challenges and invigorates us. Religious education is a ministry for which we are all responsible.

Not all students are able to attend Catholic schools and receive faith formation as part of their daily learning experience. In 2013, more than 92,000 elementary and secondary school children were enrolled in religious education programs in parishes throughout Cook and Lake counties. In addition, parishes provide religious education to teens through youth ministry as well as to adults, including those seeking to enrich their journey with Christ or join our faith through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Together with parishes, volunteers and families, the Archdiocesan Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry works to ensure religious education remains a high priority. Integral to achieving this is having educated and trained catechetical leaders to teach the Word. The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign will provide \$10 million for the formation leading to Archdiocesan certification of religious education coordinators as well as youth ministers, and the ongoing formation of certified religious education directors and other certified catechetical leaders.





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CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total raised to date: \$130,300,725*

Percent of Goal: 37.2%

Cash received to date: \$25,480,966

Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000

Raised to date: \$41,772,256*

Number of gifts: 20,733

Percent of goal: 16%

Cash received: \$14,568,394

Major gift goal: \$100,000,000

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

Number of gifts: 30

Percent of goal: 88.5%

Cash received: \$10,912,572

*Includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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