

# TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

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

March 2015

Dear Friends,

What an exciting time for *To Teach Who Christ Is!* Thanks to the generosity of thousands across the Archdiocese, I am happy to report that the campaign has now raised \$145 million in cash gifts, pledges and bequest commitments.

Parish campaigns continue to gain momentum. Wave 3 is well underway, with three of Wave 3a's seven parishes exceeding their goals and another 22 in Wave 3b ramping up with significant volunteer activity. The turnaround in the dynamic of the campaign from a year ago is profound. The renewed enthusiasm by pastors and parish leadership has led to amazing success in all types of parishes. Across the board, where it is implemented fully, the revised campaign plan is clearly working.

Another bit of good news: 15 parishes from past waves are working with our campaign team to reengage and achieve their goals. Notre Dame de Chicago Parish exceeding goal is evidence of their early success.

Please know how grateful I am for your role in helping us *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

Best Regards,



Peter L. de Keratry, CFRE  
Campaign Manager

## Pilot Wave parish perseveres, exceeds goal



Notre Dame de Chicago Parish has proven that perseverance pays off — the Pilot Wave parish recently exceeded its *To Teach Who Christ Is* goal of \$285,661.

“We just kept at it, slow but sure,” says Msgr. Patrick Pollard, pastor. “As we started to get close, I told everyone, ‘We are ready to move to this next phase but we need your help.’ The money kept coming in.”

The near west side parish is now in the process of using its 60 percent share of campaign funds for facility upgrades, specifically new handicap-accessible restrooms for the church's lower level. Since a partial floor collapse had already closed one restroom, the entire space was gutted and taken down to the bare foundation. The final pouring of new cement was completed in mid-March.

The opportunity to raise funds for parish projects through *To Teach Who Christ Is* “worked beautifully for us.”

“It had to be done very carefully,” Msgr. Pollard says. “We had to take everything out around the support pillars of the church, and be careful not to move the support structure.”

The church was built in 1887 without restrooms, which was common for that time, he notes. Notre Dame de Chicago celebrated its 150th anniversary last year.

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*New handicap-accessible restrooms are being built in the church's lower level.*

Notre Dame de Chicago volunteered to be in the Pilot Wave after its participation in the Parish Transformation Initiative revealed the need for a capital campaign. The opportunity to raise funds for parish projects through *To Teach Who Christ Is* “worked beautifully for us,” Msgr. Pollard explains.

The parish will continue to raise funds, as it will retain 100 percent of funds raised over goal and has additional items to address, such as increasing the parish endowment for future facility repairs and operating expenses and transforming the lower level parish hall into a multi-use space for retreats, social events and meetings.

The rectory is also under construction after a fire in early March. Insurance will cover those costs, Msgr. Pollard notes.

## Over Goal

Congratulations to the following parishes for exceeding their Archdiocesan *To Teach Who Christ Is* goals!

Notre Dame de Chicago Parish  
*Chicago*

Santa Maria Addolorata Parish  
*Chicago*

St. Clement Parish  
*Chicago*

St. Edmund Parish  
*Oak Park*

St. Francis of Assisi Parish (Kostner)  
*Chicago*

St. Joan of Arc Parish  
*Evanston*

St. Paul Chong Ha Sang  
Korean Catholic Mission,  
*Des Plaines*

St. Paul of the Cross Parish  
*Park Ridge*

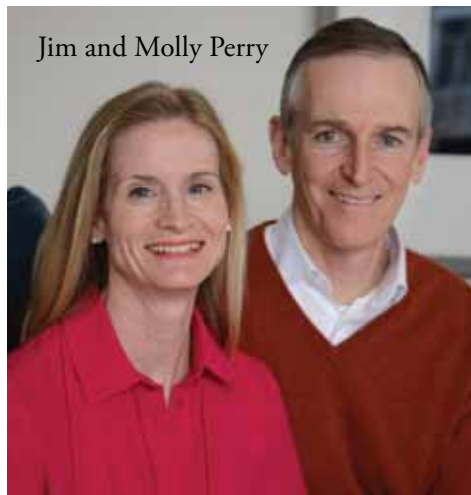
Saints Peter and Paul Parish  
*Chicago*

St. Mary of Vernon Parish  
*Indian Creek*

St. Vincent Ferrer Parish  
*River Forest*



Everyone is excited about *To Teach Who Christ Is* at St. Bede the Venerable Parish! The Chicago parish has set an enhanced goal of \$1,075,000 and plans to use its share of campaign funds for facility repairs and renovations.



Jim and Molly Perry

As a campaign co-chair, Jim Perry is integral to ensuring the success of *To Teach Who Christ Is*. A member of Chicago's St. Clement Parish, he recently shared what prompted him and his wife, Molly, to take a leadership role.

#### **Why did you choose to become involved as a campaign co-chair?**

I really had no choice! Actually, I was happy to take on the role. It's a culmination of sorts of an in-depth strategic planning process that the school board of the Archdiocese of Chicago completed about 18 months ago. During the planning process, we discovered that while, in most cases, outcomes for Catholic school students are as good or better than public school alternatives, many of our parish elementary schools suffer from low enrollment and operating losses that the Archdiocese has to cover in order for them to survive. Some schools are in neighborhoods where demographic changes make sustaining enrollments more difficult. But in most cases, Catholic school tuition had become a significant impediment to enrollment growth. It became clear to the board that the future of Catholic education in our middle- and lower-income parishes depends on some sort of tuition assistance program for families desiring a Catholic education for their children

but who cannot afford one. After a lot of work exploring the feasibility of such an effort, the capital campaign was born.

So, having helped conceive the plan to raise assistance tuition, I guess I was compelled to help lead the capital campaign! My wife Molly and I believe that shoring up the Catholic school system in Chicago is the most important contribution we can make to our Church and our community. A healthy, vibrant Catholic school system is key to passing along the faith to the next generation of Catholics in Chicago, and is also essential to the civic life of Chicago. We need viable alternatives to public schools, especially for middle class and poor communities, and the Catholic school system is the single largest, most effective alternative.

Catholic schools do an excellent job preparing young people to be good citizens in part because the language of morality, ethics and self-discipline is at the core of Catholic teaching. The flipside of being campaign co-chairs, and having to ask people for money, is sharing the good news about the value of Catholic education and all of the work being done in Chicago to try to sustain it. Most everyone in lay leadership or of financial means who we speak to is supportive of the campaign mission.

#### **What aspect of the campaign most spoke to you?**

*To Teach Who Christ Is* is the first Archdiocesan-wide campaign since the Millennium Campaign nearly 15 years ago. The Archdiocese of Chicago, like any great institution, should be in the habit of running campaigns to endow its many missions.

As the needs of the school system became more apparent, and as the campaign took shape, the imperative to pitch in became blindingly obvious to us. There is no greater mission for the Church today, we

believe, than handing down the Catholic faith to the next generation of Catholics. To do that, we have to help make Catholic education universally available to all parents who desire it for their children. We've had the good fortune to read the letters and thank-you notes from families whom have been early recipients of Caritas scholarships, the means by which early donations to the campaign are being extended to families for tuition assistance. It's both heartbreaking and heartwarming to read how much a little help with tuition can alter the lives of families so completely for the good.

#### **Why do you personally feel so strongly about the importance of scholarships and Catholic education?**

It's a shame that so many Catholic families cannot afford to send their children to Catholic schools, are unable to immerse their children more completely into their parish communities. The Archdiocese is our extended Catholic family, so it seems natural to us to contribute to a fund to help our fellow family members attend our schools. We also know that what makes Catholic education so distinctive is what Catholic families, especially those struggling to get by, desire most for their children: the inculcation of basic Catholic values, such as prudence, temperance, fortitude and wisdom. These life skills help build character, and good character is essential to living a good life and to being a contributor to a well-functioning civil society. As Cardinal George has said, Catholic schools teach responsibility so well because they are free to talk about God, to make distinctions between right and wrong, good behavior and bad behavior. They are "truly public institutions," he says, because children are taught that they are responsible for the public good, that they are not merely individuals out for themselves.

Catholic schools are often a lifeline to children in the poor and middle classes, and scholarships make that lifeline possible.



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## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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

Total raised to date: \$145,237,719\*

Percent of Goal: 41.5%

Cash received to date: \$38,362,450

**Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000**

Raised to date: \$49,097,776\*

Number of gifts: 21,995

Percent of goal: 19.6%

Cash received: \$21,826,241

**Major gift goal: \$100,000,000**

Raised to date: \$96,139,943\*


Number of gifts: 36

Percent of goal: 96.1%

Cash received: \$16,536,209

\*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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