



TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

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

July 2015

Dear friends,

It is an exciting time for *To Teach Who Christ Is!* Wave III is collectively over goal, with 21 parishes exceeding their individual goals. In just one week this month, generous families from parishes in the current wave contributed \$500,000 in gifts to support local needs and shared ministries.

Archbishop Blase Cupich continues to receive major gift support for the campaign. In July alone, he has received more than \$10 million in new documented major gifts. While some of these funds will be designated to local parish needs, the new major gift total is more than \$110 million.

Religious education is one of the primary components of *To Teach Who Christ Is*. One family recently contributed \$5 million to establish a new fund specifically for the formation and certification of our catechetical leaders. The Saint Robert Bellarmine Catechetical Scholarship Fund will be used to support volunteers and staff in parishes who are directly responsible for *teaching who Christ is* to the current and next generation. How amazingly appropriate is that?

I want to thank every one of you who has prayerfully made a sacrificial pledge to the campaign. Every gift makes a difference in the future of our local church, and for our parish communities!

Yours in Christ's Service,

Peter de Keratry, CFRE
Campaign Manager

Together, Wave III parishes exceed goal

Nearly 5,500 gifts have helped propel Wave III parishes to 110 percent of their collective goal of \$20.3 million.

It marks the summer's second significant success for *To Teach Who Christ Is*. In June, the campaign exceeded the \$100 million goal for its major gift effort, prompting Archbishop Blase Cupich to set a challenge goal of \$125 million.

Wave III's 29 parishes have raised more than \$22.2 million as of Friday, July 17. Twenty-one of those parishes have exceeded their individual goals. Some have set enhanced goals to meet greater local needs.

"Our pastors and lay leaders have worked diligently," Archbishop Cupich says. "It is gratifying to see their efforts bear fruit, not only for their own local needs, but for the important shared ministries of the Archdiocese as well."

Wave III parishes continued Commitment Weekends during July. At all Masses during St. Paul Parish's Commitment Weekend, Father Rene Mena Beltran asked parishioners to reach out and touch the pews the parish is planning to replace with campaign funds. He also presented the portable baptismal font, to demonstrate the need for a permanent font. Parishioners responded generously to their pastor, pledging 84 percent of the Chicago Heights parish's goal during that weekend alone. The parish is now at 124 percent of goal.

The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign office is also working with Wave IV pastors and leadership. This wave of the campaign will begin in the fall, and will include 60 parishes with a collective goal of \$33.6 million. Archbishop Cupich will host orientations in the coming weeks for Campaign Executive Committee members.



Pope Francis greets Archbishop Blase Cupich after a Mass marking the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican June 29. Archbishop Cupich made a pilgrimage to Rome for his pallium, which is the traditional vestment conferred upon new archbishops.

CNS photo/Paul Haring

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www.ToTeachWhoChristIs.org
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OVER GOAL!

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

PASTOR	PARISH	PERCENT OF GOAL
Fr. Honoratus Mwageni	SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago	225%
Fr. Miguel Martinez	Immaculate Conception (88th Street), Chicago	216%
Fr. Tom McDermott, OP	St. Vincent Ferrer, River Forest	206%
Fr. Waldemar Wieladek, CSSR	St. Mary of Czestochowa, Cicero	187%
Fr. Thadeo Mgimba	St. Gerard Majella, Markham	173%
Fr. Esequiel Sanchez	St. Bede the Venerable, Chicago	163%
Fr. Britto Berchmans	St. Paul of the Cross, Park Ridge	161%
Fr. Jose Maria Garcia-Maldonado	Good Shepherd, Chicago	159%
Fr. Jim Kastigar	St. Mary of the Lake, Chicago	136%
Fr. Thadeo Mgimba	Ascension-St. Susanna, Harvey	132%
Fr. Peter Fernandes, SFX	St. Timothy, Chicago	127%
Fr. Thomas Cima	St. Michael the Archangel, Chicago	126%
Fr. Rene Mena Beltran	St. Paul, Chicago Heights	124%
Fr. Christopher M. Gustafson	Our Lady of Ransom, Niles	123%
Fr. Jeremy Dixon	St. Vincent de Paul, Chicago	123%
Fr. Michael Arkins, SSS	St. Eulalia, Maywood	120%
Fr. George L. Schopp	Our Lady of Grace, Chicago	121%
Fr. Jason Torba	St. Ferdinand, Chicago	112%
Fr. Krzysztof Janczak	St. Richard, Chicago	111%
Fr. Robert Tonelli	St. Joseph, Wilmette	100%
Fr. Benedykt Pazdan	St. Bernadette, Evergreen Park	100%



PLANNED GIVING: Bequests

When making a gift in your living trust or will, please consider leaving a bequest to the Church through *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

Your gift may take many different forms:

- A specific dollar amount. “*I give \$5,000 to ...*”
- A specific property or asset. “*I give 100 shares of ABC Inc. common stock to ...*”
- A percentage of your estate. “*I give 10 percent of my estate to ...*”
- The remainder of your estate after your debts, estate administration expenses and other bequests. “*I give the remainder of my estate to ...*”

Regardless of the form of the gift in your will, the language is “*to the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, for the benefit of (Parish), (City), Illinois.*”

New scholarship fund created in St. John Paul II's name

A new fund has been established in the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust in honor of St. John Paul II, who was much beloved to Polish Catholics worldwide as the Holy Father and is now one of their most important saints.

The St. John Paul II Scholarship Endowment Fund will provide scholarships to children of Polish Americans and Polish immigrants attending Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago. After Warsaw, Chicago boasts the second largest Polish community in the world, and Polish remains the city's third most spoken language behind English and Spanish. Although most Polish Americans are fully integrated into American society, Polonia remains a vital ethnic community and identity because of the more than 150-year tradition of Polish immigration to Chicago.

Scholarships will be awarded to qualified students, and will follow students should their families move and they transfer to another Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

"A Catholic school is a place where students live a shared experience of faith in God and where they learn the riches of Catholic culture ... Catholic schools must help students to deepen their relationship with God and to discover that all things human have their deepest meaning in the person and teaching of Jesus Christ," the Holy Father once said.

The St. John Paul II Scholarship Fund is a specialized and designated fund in the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust. Gifts to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign created the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust, which is an endowment fund earmarked specifically for scholarships to children in Catholic schools throughout Cook and Lake counties. All gifts to designated funds are always used for the intent of the donor.

To make a gift to the St. John Paul II Scholarship Fund, please contact Marguerite Zappa at (312) 534-5353.



"A Catholic school is a place where students live a shared experience of faith in God and where they learn the riches of Catholic culture ..."

St. John Paul II

VOLUNTEER PROFILE | Maureen and Bob Bell



Even after 42 years as active parishioners at Our Lady of Ransom in Niles, Maureen and Bob Bell still "met many nice parishioners that we didn't know before" as co-chairs of the parish's *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

"When Fr. Chris (Gustafson) asked us to be involved, we thought about it and prayed about it and felt we could help since we know a lot of the parishioners," the couple says. "We've been involved in many aspects of parish life over the years."

Currently, both are Eucharistic ministers and ministers of care, and members of the Social Events Committee. Bob is an altar server for funerals, helps with the soup kitchen and sings in the choir. Maureen is involved with the Women's Club and helps with many of its functions.

Plus, the Bells understand the need for *To Teach Who Christ Is*, and how it will ben-

efit both their parish and the Archdiocese of Chicago at large. "We feel its important to teach our young people about Christ by supporting scholarships for Catholic education and passing on the faith," they say. "We were blessed to be able to send our four boys to Catholic schools and met many great parish families."

Our Lady of Ransom plans to use its share of campaign funds to establish a parish Catholic education trust, create a shrine to Our Lady of Ransom, and make interior and exterior improvements to the church and parish hall. It has raised 123 percent of its \$1.15 million goal.

But not all of the benefits of *To Teach Who Christ Is* are tangible, according to the Bells.

"We feel it will also create a closer relationship between parishioners in our multi-cultural parish," they say.



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CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total raised to date: \$180,451,101*

Percent of Goal: 51.6%

Cash received to date: \$49,351,560

Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000

Raised to date: \$70,151,825*

Number of gifts: 27,631

Percent of goal: 28%

Cash received: \$30,153,351

Major gift goal: \$100,000,000

Raised to date: \$110,299,276


Number of gifts: 46

Percent of goal: 110.3%

Cash received: \$19,198,208

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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