



TO TEACH *Who Christ Is*

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation December 2016



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that more than two years have passed since I arrived in Chicago and became your archbishop.

We have achieved so much together in such a short time, including meeting our \$350 million goal for *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

As the active phase of our campaign draws to a close this month, it does so successfully. While I had the opportunity to celebrate this achievement with campaign leaders during a series of prayer services this autumn, I want to take this opportunity to thank the more than 64,000 people who, like you, chose to support *To Teach Who Christ Is* and sustain parishes and shared ministries that benefit us all.

The campaign now enters a five-year fulfillment phase, which is equally important in our endeavor. Please know that the archdiocese remains dedicated to providing the same high level of support and communication to which you are accustomed. Your partnership is so important to me as we continue to ensure our Church is vibrant for generations to come.

Please remember me and our archdiocese in your prayers, and have a blessed Christmas and Epiphany.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Card. Blase J. Cupich

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

To Teach Who Christ Is enters next phase

John T. Osterlund is the Chief Development Officer for the Archdiocese of Chicago. He offers insight into To Teach Who Christ Is' past, present and future.

This month, *To Teach Who Christ Is* concludes what is known as the “active phase” of a campaign. For four years, the faithful of the Archdiocese of Chicago have worked together — with much success!

The vision for our campaign began even before that, with the late Cardinal Francis George, OMI. In partnership with our campaign chairs, Jim and Molly Perry, and others, Cardinal George sought to provide support for not only shared ministries of the archdiocese but local parish communities as well. While he succeeded in raising more than \$80 million for the major gift effort, the early waves of the parish component struggled. But following the transition to CCS Fundraising in 2014, parishes, too, began experiencing success.

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Commitment Weekend

Father Tom Rzepiela accepts pledges from parishioners of St. Thomas of Villanova during the Palatine parish's Commitment Weekend. Parishes in Wave VI, the final wave of *To Teach Who Christ Is*, are wrapping up their campaigns this month. ✚

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From his first days in the archdiocese, Cardinal Blase Cupich was dedicated to continuing this effort that was so important to his predecessor. He has met weekly about the campaign, visited with hundreds of parish leaders, and established important partnerships that will extend far into the future. Cardinal Cupich also personally launched every wave with an orientation for volunteers and pastors.

As of today, more than 64,000 faithful have pledged \$391 million to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, and many Wave VI parishes are still conducting Commitment Weekends and collecting pledges. Truly, this has been an unparalleled experience in the history of the Church in Chicago and throughout the world.

We now embark on the “fulfillment phase” of the campaign. All who pledged their support for *To Teach Who Christ Is*

were given the opportunity to pay their gifts over three to five years. Our goal now is to ensure these gifts are fulfilled, and those who gave them feel as supported during this process as when they were asked to contribute.

formation and critical facility needs across Cook and Lake counties.

Of course, our story — our campaign — does not end here, nor will it be concluded when every pledge is completed. It is a story that will be told for generations in the thou-

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Approximately \$115 million has already been received from pledges and one-time gifts. As pledges are paid, funds are immediately divided as the campaign promised: parishes receive 60 percent of funds they raised up to their goal (and 100 percent over goal), and the remaining 40 percent is directed to the shared ministries of the archdiocese. In other words, as you pay on your pledge, your parish receives its share of your gift and you support Catholic education, faith

sands of local parish projects completed with gifts to the *To Teach Who Christ Is*, in the lives of children who are able to receive a quality, Catholic education because of scholarships from the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust or the Caritas Scholars Program, and in the faith of people of all ages who seek enrichment through bolstered religious education programs.

On behalf all those who will benefit for years to come because of your generosity, I thank you. †

VOLUNTEER PROFILE | Deacon Mike and Mary Alice Benoit



‘We’re a parish with a lot of heart and little means.’
~ Mary Alice Benoit

Deacon Mike and Mary Alice Benoit were already active at St. John the Evangelist when their pastor, Father Gregg Gorczyca, asked if they would co-chair the Streamwood parish’s *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

Not only has the couple been parishioners for more than 30 years, Deacon Mike is assigned there as a member of the permanent diaconate and Mary Alice is the Director of Communications. Mary Alice says these roles made them both ideal for the Campaign Executive Committee (CEC), since they are each familiar with the many groups that comprise the diverse parish.

“That’s what made the campaign successful,” she says. “We tapped into every group of the parish. Our distinct cultures act as one parish, and it was vital to get every group involved.”

St. John the Evangelist set an enhanced goal of \$2 million to address critical maintenance needs, and has now raised \$1.9 million. With its share of campaign funds, the parish plans to improve the HVAC system in the school and reconfigure and replace the upper church parking lot, as well as substantially reduce debt.

The leadership and excitement of Father Gorczyca and CEC members trickled through the parish, Mary Alice says. The community understood what parish leaders were trying to accomplish, and responded generously.

“We’re a parish with a lot of heart and little means,” Mary Alice adds. “But when you have a lot of parishioners who give from their heart, then you can raise \$1.9 million.” †

OVER GOAL!

Congratulations to the following Wave VI parishes and pastors for exceeding their *To Teach Who Christ Is* goals. The 59 parishes in Wave VI have collectively raised more than \$38 million.

PASTOR	PARISH	% OF GOAL
Father Jose Murcia Abellan	Queen of the Universe, Chicago	185%
Father Lawrence M. Lisowski	Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish, Chicago	182%
Father Kevin Feeney	Sheil Catholic Center, Evanston	175%
Father Richard J. Lo Bianco	Divine Savior, Norridge	158%
Father Armand Ramirez Ruiz	St. Francis de Sales, Chicago	150%
Father Francis Li	St. Therese Chinese Catholic Mission, Chicago	148%
Father Kenneth Carlson	St. Benedict, Blue Island	146%
Father Michael J Shanahan	Our Lady of Lourdes, Chicago	137%
Father John B. Atoyebi	St. Clotilde, Chicago	133%
Father Salvador D. Hallegado	St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Chicago	131%
Father Jeremiah M. Boland	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Glenview	131%
Father Jerome J. Jacob, Jr.	St. Mary of the Annunciation, Mundelein	127%
Father Grzegorz Gorczyca	St. John the Evangelist, Streamwood	127%
Father Wayne F. Watts	St. John Berchmans, Chicago	127%
Father Frank A. Kurucz	St. Cajetan, Chicago	122%
Father Patrick Render	St. Viator, Chicago	116%
Father Paul G. Seaman	St. Pascal, Chicago	115%
Father Martin E. Michniewicz	St. Alexander, Palos Heights	112%
Father Robert Heinz	Our Lady of the Brook, Northbrook	112%
Father David B. Krolczyk	St. James, Chicago Heights	110%
Father Oswaldo Guillen	Maternity B.V.M., Chicago	109%
Father Antoni Bury	St. Bruno, Chicago	108%
Father Robert Fedek	Our Lady of Victory, Chicago	105%
Father Brian Ardagh	St. Alphonsus, Lemont	105%
Father Michael J. Novick	St. Lawrence O'Toole, Matteson	102%
Father Daniel W. Long, Jr.	Epiphany, Chicago	102%



Celebrating Catholic Education breakfast

Tickets, sponsorship opportunities available for *Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast*

The third annual *Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast* will be held at Chicago's Palmer House, A Hilton Hotel, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

Dr. Jo Ann Rooney, President of Loyola University Chicago, will serve as the keynote speaker. She is the university's first lay leader in its 146-year-old history.

Funds raised at the *Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast* benefit the Caritas Scholars Program as well as programs for schools and teachers through the Office of Catholic Schools.

Tickets are \$150 per person and can be purchased online at archchicago.org/cceb or by calling (312) 534-7614. Registration is required by January 17.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at all levels.

For more information about the *Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast*, please contact Teresa Battaglia at tbattaglia@archchicago.org or (312) 534-7614. †



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CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000
Total raised to date: \$391,474,490*
Percent of goal: 111.8%
Non-revenue total: \$16,308,614
Cash received to date: \$115,005,812

Parish campaign goal: \$250,000,000
Raised to date: \$232,582,271*
Number of gifts: 64,788
Percent of goal: 93%
Cash received: \$82,803,926

Major gift goal: \$100,000,000
Raised to date: \$142,583,605*
Number of gifts: 71
Percent of goal: 142.5%
Cash received: \$32,201,885

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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