

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

April 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A blessed Easter to you, with my assurance that the Risen Lord continues to bless us with renewed hope in this season of new springtime for our Church. In the Archdiocese of Chicago, we have already experienced both renewal and hope through the generosity of the many people who have supported *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

Together, people came together to pledge gifts surpassing \$400 million which will position us to take up the renewal needed in the Church and to carry on the mission of Jesus in the world. Parishes, schools and ministries have already benefited from the generosity of over 70,000 contributors to TTWCI. We will be able to serve as a peace-making and life-affirming community of disciples in a world often torn by violence and destruction. In so many ways, the hope of the Risen Lord is touching our Church, our lives, and our city because of your generosity and commitment to work in solidarity.

In the name of the Church, I thank you for your continued generosity. Know of my personal gratitude and my pledge of prayers. Please do not fail to remember me to the Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Parish Renews the Spirit Through *To Teach Who Christ Is*

In 2012, Father Thomas Martín Jackson, O.P., was assigned to Holy Name of Mary Parish, bringing his experience in multicultural environments to the parish. Having ministered in the United States, Mexico and Italy, Father Tom found himself called to inspire all Christians to dream new dreams and contribute to renewing God's church.



The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign has provided Holy Name of Mary Parish with funds to execute internal and external renovation plans, including repairing the parish's roof and floors.

"Shortly after I arrived at Holy Name of Mary Parish, we launched our "Renew the Spirit" campaign tag line," said Jackson. "We utilized the parish's 75th anniversary and the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign to encourage parish members and friends of Holy Name of Mary to engage in both the physical and spiritual components of the call to renew the church."

With the aim to "Renew the Spirit" for the greater glory of God, Holy Name of Mary set off to utilize all parish facilities to build up the spiritual life of the parishioners. The first step in the process was executing external and internal renovation plans.

While a handful of renovations began prior to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* launch, it is because of the campaign that the parish has recently

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completed external renovations to the OSP Ministry Center (former convent), which serves the needs of parish groups and the greater Morgan Park community, including small group meetings, days of recollection and holiday food distribution. In addition, the parish used funds to build a new roof, and install glass blocks and tempered glass. These renovations have allowed for greater youth and young adult ministry opportunities, retreats for married couples, and elder/senior day-time offerings.

"We are so grateful for God's grace working in our parishioners and Holy Name of Mary school alumni who have utilized the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign to allow our church to be renewed in the spirit," Jackson said. "It's because of this campaign and the many renovations we've been able to execute that we've been able to improve our spiritual offerings and enrich our parishioners."

This spring, Holy Name of Mary Parish hopes to begin internal renovations in the Ministry Center, including updates to the floor, walls and furnishings.

"I can't begin to express how essential the funds from this campaign were and still are in helping us renew our parish, said Jackson. "I pray that our story and testimony encourage donors to fulfill their pledges and continue contributing to the campaign."

About Holy Name of Mary Parish

Located in Chicago's Morgan Park neighborhood, Holy Name of Mary was founded in 1940 by a group of African-American women who desired to find a parish home where their families were welcomed to worship in spirit and in truth.

Donor Profile: Basil Rhymes

In an effort to grow together as a family and help his children's faith and character develop, Basil Rhymes and his family became heavily involved in the events/programs sponsored by St. Clotilde. Through their participation, Rhymes and his family learned about the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

"After attending our first *To Teach Who Christ Is* orientation, we recognized that beyond our regular involvement in the church, we had a chance to be supportive of programs offered by the archdiocese," Rhymes said. "We saw this campaign as an opportunity to further our parish's connection to its parishioners, and other parishes within the archdiocese and greater Christian community."



Donor, Basil Rhymes and his family are heavily involved at St. Clotilde parish. When *To Teach Who Christ Is* launched, Rhymes and his family felt a calling to expand their involvement with the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Rhymes has been involved in many parishes and programs, with several Catholic school principals, counselors, parish priests and religious education teachers impacting his faith. While each person had impacted his life in a unique way, all seemed to have shared the importance of helping others, not only to better the community, but to continue to grow in the journey with Christ. The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign allowed Rhymes and his family to experience just that, helping them become more in tune with the value in working with other people and parishes.

"As we all continue our journey in helping others and growing in our faith, it's crucial we view every program/initiative as a joint effort and benefit to those involved," Rhymes said. "I no longer put sole responsibility on the local priest or church to meet program goals or help those in need. There is an ever-evolving duty for each of us to become involved in the programs in which our parishes invest."

St. Clotilde parish was presented with the opportunity to meet needs of their parish through *To Teach Who Christ Is*. The parish set a goal of raising \$57,000, with nearly \$25,000 going towards church masonry repairs, more than \$19,000 toward rectory masonry repairs and more than \$17,500 going towards roof masonry repairs. To date, St. Clotilde parish has developed a strategic plan for the funds and has communicated plans with its parishioners.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$414,588,782

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$138,400,688

Percent Paid to Date: 33%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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