



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation September 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

September opened with a national holiday we all respect and appreciate. Earlier this month, Labor Day paid homage to the achievements of American workers and served as an annual tribute to the many ways workers in the United States support our nation's well-being.

The Catholic Church has deep roots in Chicago, and in the hands and hearts of those who built it. Those who emigrated from around the world brought with them traditions that founded a rich tapestry of Catholicity across the city. Immigrants built close-knit communities that have strengthened Chicago for decades. People all over Cook and Lake Counties today carry on that closeness, continuing to build their neighborhoods, homes and parishes, unified and encouraged by Catholic faith.

I am inspired by the dedication of those who work steadily every day throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago and who make it a beacon of Catholic values. Their commitment to pass on the faith helps to build communities that reflect Christ's love, sacrifice and service.

It is generosity such as yours through programs like *To Teach Who Christ Is* that allows the Archdiocese to continue building, literally and figuratively, the well-being of our faith for hard-working Catholic parishes and families.

I am humbled by your support of this campaign, and offer my prayers for your parish and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Reverend Ronald Hicks
Vicar General

St. Cajetan Brings New Structural Improvements, Continued Efforts to Foster Community

St. Cajetan Parish was founded in 1927 in what is now Morgan Park, on the far south side of Chicago, with the intention to build a Church for worship and a school to spread our sacred cherished faith. The parish grew from nothing, into a strong home for Catholic faith through some of the city's most challenging years, including the Great Depression. The St. Cajetan campus now includes five buildings with more than 1,400 registered families, 415 children enrolled in the parish school and approximately 100 students in the religious education program.



St. Cajetan's new baptismal font serves as a reminder to cleanse ourselves in the waters of new life.

Keeping historic parishes like St. Cajetan – which holds a strong and continuous presence in Chicago – vibrant is important to the Archdiocese. Due to the generosity of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, St. Cajetan was able to commission and install a new baptismal font and ambry. The font is a constant reminder when entering the Church of our need of conversion and to cleanse our selves in the waters of new life. The parish was also able to install an air

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conditioning system in the parish gym – an invaluable addition that gives St. Cajetan a larger location for parishioners to socialize beyond Church walls and hours. The hope is that this space will inspire greater community building efforts.

“Both of these projects enhanced the beauty of our campus,” said Fr. Frank Kurucz, pastor at St. Cajetan. “The baptismal font, in particular, was a great teaching moment for our parish about the importance of the first Sacrament of the Church – baptism – and how from these waters we pass into new life in Christ. Without the generosity shown through *To Teach Who Christ Is*, these and other projects in process would not be easily accomplished.”

As campaign pledges are paid, St. Cajetan will complete a few more projects to enhance the parish's beauty and utility. One will be the purchase of a new digital organ for the Church, to enhance worship. Another, the establishment of a meditative garden in honor of the Blessed Mother, Mary. All remaining of the funds will be used to help replace the original windows in one of the school buildings.

The initial goal for St. Cajetan was to raise \$820,000. The parish obtained pledges of over \$1.1 million.

“Through time, each generation is called to the same shared-sacrifice of supporting the parish,” said Fr. Frank. “I am humbled by the above and beyond support demonstrated and the pledges made by our local community. I am also grateful for the Phoenix Scholarships resulting from TTWCI, and I look forward to seeing how these scholarships and our overall structural improvements will benefit our parishioners and the children and families of our Archdiocese.”

St. Sylvester Makes Crucial Improvements in Logan Square Parish

Nestled in the heart of Chicago's Logan Square is St. Sylvester parish. Established in the 1880s, and beautiful inside and out, it serves a welcoming, faithful, diverse community that prides itself on being mission and stewardship-oriented.

The parish we know today was built in 1907. St. Sylvester is another one of Chicago's old parishes that has seen its surrounding neighborhood rise, build and change with the times, all the while supporting generations of Catholic families who come to worship, to celebrate and to find peace. So, when *To Teach Who Christ Is* was established, Fr. Samson N. Mukundi, pastor at St. Sylvester, knew how the funds should be allocated: back into serving the community the parish has supported for well over a century.



St. Sylvester's newly installed pathway makes for a safer and prettier walk from the parking lot to the parish.

“Our priority is the health and safety of the people we serve,” said Fr. Sam. “Thanks to the support of parishioners through TTWCI, we were able to completely reinvest back into projects that would support them. We rebuilt the pathway from our parking lot to our Church, completely repaired the drainage system, and we'll be providing funds to enhance our religious education program. These were essential to our building's maintenance, of course, but moreover, they benefit our parishioners who faithfully pray with us every week.”

St. Sylvester met their goal through personal outreach and a day of pledging with the entire community. Fr. Sam attributes the campaign's success with visuals, like the progress thermometer, and by thoroughly explaining how funds would be redistributed back into safety and community-building initiatives. Fr. Sam noted that pledging and fundraising is foreign in some cultures, so when endeavoring to raise funds through TTWCI, he knew it was important to be creative and encouraging.

Fr. Sam also said the campaign gave the parish an opportunity to support priority projects and confront parish needs. “We still have some outstanding projects that need to be addressed,” he said. “But the fact is, we would not have been able to make a dent in our priority updates without the support of *To Teach Who Christ Is*. We are eternally grateful.”

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$417,746,215*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 119%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$157,513,254

Percent Paid to Date: 45%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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