

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

While we are called to give praise to God through the entire year, this season of thanks encourages us to further reflect on our blessings and the reasons behind our grateful hearts. As a result of the generosity of our donors and our parishes, we have an abundance of reasons to be thankful when it comes to *To Teach Who Christ Is*. Our churches and facilities across Cook County continue to be renovated, and we've been able to expand our reach and help those in our local communities.

Our gratitude continues when we think of the campaign managers and committee members who dedicate their time to working with those parishioners who want to get involved and pledge support. Without our campaign committees, *To Teach Who Christ Is* wouldn't be half of what it is today, and we are so grateful for their efforts in helping us execute the campaign and make it such a success.

And finally, we'd like to thank you for continuing to keep updated on our campaign through this newsletter, and your ongoing commitment *To Teach Who Christ Is*. We pray that as you sit amongst your family and friends this Thanksgiving, you will "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" (1 Chronicles 16:34), and be able to bask in the many blessings bestowed upon you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The *To Teach Who Christ Is* Team

A Q&A with Major Gift Officer Cynthia Manzo



Cynthia Manzo is a major gift officer at the Archdiocese of Chicago. Top right photo: Catholic students of all ages participate in prayer together. Bottom right photo: Students and teachers at the Archdiocese of Chicago learn together through creativity.

What's your favorite program or initiative coming out of *To Teach Who Christ Is*?

Helping children receive a Catholic education through our scholarship program. Phoenix Scholarships are granted through the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust fund to provide scholarships to families needing assistance for generations to come. Families now have an opportunity to send their children to Catholic school, which is life-changing.

As a major gift officer, what do you think makes *To Teach Who Christ Is* such a unique program for your vicariate?

Seeing parishes in my vicariate benefit from these programs shows the generosity and support so many families shared through the campaign are truly having an impact. The diverse programs funded by

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To Teach Who Christ Is are being put to work not only in Vicariate IV parishes but all parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The religious education programs and the critical facility issues funded from *To Teach Who Christ Is* provide assistance to many parishes whose programs or buildings are struggling. The scholarships from *To Teach Who Christ Is* significantly impact families who want their children to have a Catholic education.

What does *To Teach Who Christ Is* tell us about the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago?

Each parish is unique and each has its own history. Working firsthand in the campaign, specifically in Hispanic parishes across the Archdiocese, I witnessed the generosity of so many families. The success of the campaign tells us the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago care and want their neighboring brothers and sisters to succeed. It also shows our Catholic faith is strong and that we all believe in what *To Teach Who Christ Is* can do for the people, parishes and schools of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

What can we look forward to seeing as a result of *To Teach Who Christ Is* in 2018?

To Teach Who Christ Is will continue to fulfill the mission of *Renew My Church* and benefit parishes, schools and families in 2018 and many years after. Now, more than ever before, children will receive scholarships as the trust continues to grow. With the help of donors completing their pledges, parishes will have the ability to do more, like building programs for their communities and continuing to make structural repairs to their buildings, roofs and flooring.

Expanding Phoenix Scholarship Opportunities through *To Teach Who Christ Is*

Catholic education has always been important in the Archdiocese of Chicago, with 214 Catholic schools preparing more than 77,000 students for bright futures. Accordingly, strengthening Catholic education has been and is a key element of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, as scholarships from an endowed fund are today being awarded as Phoenix Scholarships, to ensure access to Catholic education for families throughout Cook and Lake counties.

In the past year, the number of Phoenix Scholarships awarded has increased significantly because of pledges being paid by *To Teach Who Christ Is* donors, rising from 291 scholarships in fiscal year 2016/17, to 619 scholarships awarded in fiscal year 2017/18 to 21 different schools.



Left photo: Graduates shake hands with younger students St. Stanislaus Kostka School in Chicago. Right photo: A teacher and students at St. Genevieve School in Chicago gather together.

“The Phoenix Scholarships were created to ensure Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools are financially accessible to children and families,” said Clare Sullivan, director of scholarships at the Archdiocese of Chicago. “To see such an increase in scholarship opportunities for so many Chicago youth is incredible, and it’s humbling to know this type of important progress can be attributed to the generosity of pledges paid to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.”

This year, scholarships ranged from \$500–\$2,650 with an average award of \$1,400. As the endowment grows, the Archdiocese expects the program will expand to serve as many students as possible while protecting the long-term viability of the endowment.

“It is an honor for the Office of Catholic Schools to see the significant impact these scholarships and *To Teach Who Christ Is* have on so many Catholic families in Chicago,” said Sullivan. “We look forward to providing the same opportunity to many more families in Cook and Lake counties in the years to come.”

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$420,151,095*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 120%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$164,224,102

Percent Paid to Date: 47%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



835 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611

tel 312.534.8500

toteachwhochristis.org | ensenarquienes Cristo.org



@toteachcampaign



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