

# TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

Dear Friends,

It has been a full year since we concluded the active phase of our campaign, and what a great year it has been for meeting the goals of *To Teach Who Christ Is*. There's been a significant increase in scholarships to Chicago Catholic schools through Phoenix Scholarships, which provide more opportunities for children to receive a Catholic education. Additionally, archdiocesan churches, schools and missions have made important structural renovations to maintain their vibrancy. Parish communities have implemented new programs that promote engagement, education and a place of welcome for our parishioners.

In a word, your generosity has had a great impact on the life of the Church. All of this should move us to look back on this year with gratitude, and to look to the year ahead with hope. Next year marks the second year of the five-year fulfillment phase. Your continued support will ensure the vitality of our parishes and schools for future generations, and enhance the capacity of the archdiocese to build on what you have accomplished.

Please remember your parish, the archdiocese and me in your prayers. In this time of the Lord's Birth, I wish you a blessed Christmas and Epiphany, assuring you and your loved ones of a place in my prayers, as I thank God for many gifts. May you be blessed with joy and peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Cardinal Blase J. Cupich  
Archbishop of Chicago

## St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church Exceeds Goal and Builds Formation Efforts

St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church is located at 218 W. Alexander Street, seated in Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood. A diverse and unique community, the parish includes its Catholic school and a number of local groups like the Cantonese Group, SMI Club, St. Rocco Society, Mandarin Group and Indonesian Group. Catering to a variety of regions and ethnic affiliations, the parish offers Mass in English, Cantonese, Mandarin and Indonesian and is a true demonstration of diversity in the Catholic faith right here in Chicago.



Top photo: The April 2017 Cantonese Retreat, sponsored by *To Teach Who Christ Is*.  
Bottom photo: Parishioners join in on an annual Advent retreat.

It's also a true demonstration of generosity and strong community, as St. Therese exceeded its *To Teach Who Christ Is* goal by 151 percent. What was the secret to their success?

"We achieved and ultimately surpassed our goal by having fewer meetings and, instead, doing more personal outreach by all members of the Campaign Executive Committee (CEC)," said Fr. Francis Li, pastor at St. Therese. "With the combination of wonderful support

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from members of the CEC and a strong parish case, our parishioners were happy and enthusiastic to support us in the campaign.”

Funds raised from the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign helped St. Therese upgrade its parish website with design and bilingual capabilities, as it reaches English speakers and can also translate into simplified and traditional Chinese. Additionally, because of *To Teach Who Christ Is*, the parish now offers a formation series titled *Catholicism 101*, which is held on a handful of Sundays for parishioners to brush up on catechesis and address what it means to be a Catholic. Topics cover some of those matters that seem commonplace but are important to address, like *Why go to Mass*, and *Why do we need the sacraments?* The parish formed the program to help make the answers to these seemingly intuitive questions accessible and relatable to its parishioners. St. Therese was also able to hold a Cantonese retreat in April 2017, led by a deacon who flew in from the Diocese of San Diego.

Looking ahead, St. Therese plans to further its efforts around formation in the community, working on ways to carry out the mission of the Chinese apostolate more effectively in a neighborhood that is growing with Chinese immigrants.

“We have a great opportunity and challenge ahead to share the Good News and serve our local communities,” said Fr. Li. “St. Therese is grateful to *To Teach Who Christ Is* because it helps us further our mission in formation, missionary disciples and the Chinese apostolate, and I hope and pray that these efforts will bring people closer to God.”

## St. Bonaventure Returns as an Oratory and Benefits from *To Teach Who Christ Is*

St. Bonaventure is a spiritual home on Diversey Avenue between Chicago's Lincoln Park and Lakeview neighborhoods. As an oratory and house of prayer, St. Bonaventure prides itself as a place for kind, friendly and welcoming fellowship.

“We're a small congregation, but anyone who visits will find a strong, loving community that is socially minded and deeply connected with the broader Catholic Church,” said Fr. Thomas Healy, rector pastor, retired priest and pastor emeritus of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. “We think beyond just our congregation. We're brothers and sisters of Christ, together, who take care of our neighbors. We also welcome some of the best preachers in the world to Mass each week to offer a variety of perspectives on our faith.”



St. Bonaventure is an oratory, or house of prayer, and is a regional Catholic community open to all who wish to gather in worship and service.

Places of worship like St. Bonaventure have benefitted enormously from *To Teach Who Christ Is* and from the generosity of people like you. At St. Bonaventure, many projects have been in-part funded by *To Teach Who Christ Is*, including revived flooring, new pews and beautiful windows restored to their former glory. The oratory has also been able to improve its sound systems and keep air conditioning and heating available to those who visit.

“*To Teach Who Christ Is* is such a valuable initiative within the archdiocese because it is a reminder of who we are as Catholics, doing good and spreading the Good News like Jesus,” said Fr. Healy. “It's a reminder that we are all in this together, from people within individual parishes, to parishes within our archdiocese, to dioceses within this universal Church.”

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000**

Total Raised to Date: \$420,761,086\*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 120%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$167,368,740

Percent Paid to Date: 48%

\*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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