



# TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

March 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We seem to encounter in today's news a world dominated by fatal forces and foreclosed possibilities. This past year brought a plague of gun violence, streams of helpless refugees, struggles in our own nation around immigration and racism, countless victims of natural disasters, and large numbers of people who are – in the words of Pope Francis – “discarded.” There seems to be scant room for hope and optimism.

For people of faith, however, there is other news. In this holy season, when we celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord, we see a story of new life, transcending sin and death. The risen Christ himself bears wounds of suffering, but He is risen, and we hold great hope in He who leads us forward.

Thus, we find ourselves prompted to generously respond to God who has been so good to us. You have responded to the Lord, perhaps in many ways, but I want to highlight your response in supporting the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign. Your contributions build up the Church's ability to bring Jesus Christ to a world in need. Indeed, your contributions may have refurbished a church or a school or helped to develop programs that deeply touch the lives of people.

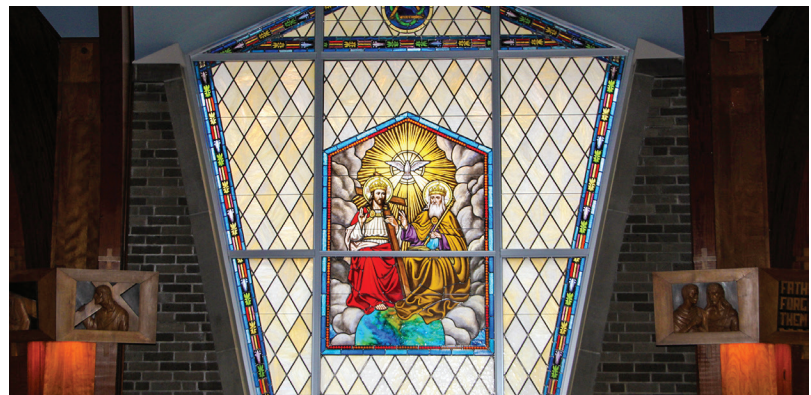
As we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in this holiest season, I lift all of you up to the Lord in gratitude and petition. May He who has begun His good work in you bring it to completion.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich  
Archbishop of Chicago

## St. Alexander Opens Newly Renovated Church

For nearly 60 years, St. Alexander has served Palos Heights and its surrounding communities, spreading the love of Christ through its vibrant school, religious education program, inspiring liturgy and ministries.



St. Alexander opened its doors to a newly renovated church at the end of 2017. Updates were significant and ranged from new kneelers and drywall to new stained glass windows and a new tabernacle.

To continue reaching the community and growing the parish, Fr. Marty Michniewicz, pastor at St. Alexander, and his staff happily became involved in the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign. It was through the hard work of St. Alexander's executive committee and the generosity of parishioners that the parish was able to exceed their campaign goal and open their newly renovated church at the end of 2017.

“This has been a tremendous experience, and all of our praise is lifted up to God for the success we've had in raising funds and renovating our church,” said Fr. Marty. “We've received so many

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positive comments from our parishioners regarding our renovations, and everyone seems to be pleased with how our remodeling plans came to fruition. We are simply thrilled to have been able to make these modifications.”

St. Alexander’s renovations included new stained glass windows, an updated sound and lighting system, asbestos removal, rebuilding of the sanctuary to include a new tabernacle, and new flooring to create a more cohesive worship space. In addition, a ramp was installed in the sanctuary, pews were refinished and stained, new kneelers and seat cushions were purchased and the ceiling was drywalled. These changes were made with the desire to keep St. Alexander a wonderful and comfortable place to worship for generations to come. Upcoming projects include remodeling the lavatories and the parish kitchen.

Throughout the planning process, the campaign committee was in constant contact with parishioners, being extremely transparent on how and where funds would be used for the church. Parishioners shared their appreciation for the open communication approach, and as a result, were more than eager to participate and donate funds to the campaign.

“*To Teach Who Christ Is* truly brought our parish together, reminding us all that we are one body, working together,” said Guy Cadore, campaign committee member. “The opportunity I received to help, and being able to reach out to parishioners and learn about their journey with Christ is an experience I’ll never forget.”

Please visit [stalexanderpalos.org](http://stalexanderpalos.org) for news and updates.

## Campaign Successes at Latino Parishes

*To Teach Who Christ Is* has been one of the most successful campaigns in the history of the Church. With participation from across the Archdiocese of Chicago, Latino parishes in particular have had standout success.

“We wanted to change the way we approached this campaign in our community,” said Jose Piñones, major gift officer at the Archdiocese of Chicago. “We also wanted to respect Latino culture and etiquette. With this in mind, we decided to host one-on-one meetings between parishioners and their respective pastors to discuss parish goals and needs, and how the campaign could help. Making this campaign personal for parishioners in this way resulted in a really great response from the Latino community.”



The story of success at Latino parishes through the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign is one of faith and strength. Above is a photo of St. Genevieve at 4835 West Altgeld Street.

Piñones also noted how pleased pastors were to be able to host meetings with their parishioners, saying he received resounding positive feedback from leaders who really got to know and better understand their followers. Fr. Pedro, pastor of St. Kevin at 10509 S. Torrence Avenue, noted. “*To Teach Who Christ Is* has had a strong impact on our community’s spirit. The ability to have one-on-one time with so many parishioners was truly meaningful, as it reenergized and strengthened our community and ties to one another.”

In terms of how Latino parishes are benefitting from the campaign, Piñones noted Phoenix Scholarships have had a marked impact, with more families making the decision to enroll their children in Archdiocese of Chicago’s Catholic schools. Structural improvement projects have also been critically important for parishes participating in the campaign.

“We received incredible, above-and-beyond support from our parishioners,” said Fr. Tim O’Malley, pastor at St. Genevieve, located at 4835 W. Altgeld Street in Chicago. “To show our appreciation, it’s only right that we use this support to continue making our church an updated haven for worship. We’re excited to be able to make modifications, like refencing and resurfacing our parking lot, redoing our kitchen and lighting in the church and updating our sound system. Our goal is, as always, to create a more comfortable space for our community.”

Like all parishes that have been able to build programs and complete capital projects as a result of *To Teach Who Christ Is*, the universal thread lies in the ways parishioners and communities have risen to the call of support and strengthened the spirit of their parishes in the process.

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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

Total Raised to Date: \$423,428,301\*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$184,152,752

Percent Paid to Date: 53%

\*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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