

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

April 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign came to fruition, we've seen churches build new facilities, students receive scholarships for Catholic education and parishes experience renewed vitality. It's through the gifts of donors like you that we have witnessed the impact this campaign has on so many lives and parishes across Chicago.

To date, 50 percent of campaign pledges have been fulfilled. With this extraordinary milestone, we reflect on what has been accomplished, and we look ahead, encouraged by what the next half of fulfilled pledges will bring. Not only is there opportunity to push forward with renovations and award scholarships to deserving students, we also have the opportunity to fix facilities that serve those in need and offer religious education and catechist training.

But for these opportunities to become realities, we must continue to work toward pledge fulfillment. A friendly reminder that fulfilling a pledge can be done in a few easy steps by visiting the Manage Your Pledge page of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* webpage: giving.archchicago.org/ttwci.

Just as so many figures throughout our Church's history have held to God's provision and vocation, we continue to fulfill His plan by strengthening our parishes and providing religious education programs and faith formation for future generations. Thank you for joining us in our mission and helping us to make this campaign a success.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Steven Messina
Senior Director, Major Gifts

St. Catherine Celebrates 60 Years with New Updates to the Parish

St. Catherine of Alexandria, located at 4100 W. 107th Street in Oak Lawn, is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2018. A storied and respected figure in the village, the parish also serves through its Catholic school, which hosts 463 students from preschool ages through eighth grade. In its anniversary year, St. Catherine's theme rests upon some of the most important elements of and figures in one's life: family, faith, and friendship.



St. Catherine sought projects that would benefit the entire parish, which included new signage, revived air conditioning and a parking lot rebuild.

"Really, this theme rings true every year at St. Catherine," said Fr. Dennis Ziomek, pastor. "Our parishioners span many generations, with third and even fourth generations celebrating in our parish. It's not uncommon for us to see parents who attended our school and celebrated sacraments at St. Catherine as a child, teaching

Continued on back

Continued from front

their children about the Church through St. Catherine's ministries and sending their children to the same school they attended when they were young."

As St. Catherine sought to accomplish its *To Teach Who Christ Is* goal, it formed a committee of parishioners that represented all ages. Some members had experience from past capital campaigns, and for others it was a first time. Fr. Dennis also knew if he was to ask for support from others, he needed to show his own faith in the campaign.

"I knew if I asked parishioners to make a contribution, I first had to make mine," said Fr. Dennis. "That way, when I spoke about the campaign and its importance, parishioners knew I was not only serious about the potential of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, but they would also understand my long-term investment in our parish's and our parishioners' well-being."

Fr. Dennis noted over time, with gentle encouragement, parishioners became believers in the campaign, surpassing the parish's initial goal. The committee looked for projects that would benefit the entire parish, and chose a new air-conditioning system for the church, rebuilding the parking lots and installing an LED monument sign to welcome parishioners. Future projects include a renovation of the church's interior, including new pews, asbestos abatement of the tile floor, new flooring, a fresh coat of paint, and remodeling the sanctuary.

"We've had outstanding support and encouragement from our parishioners around these improvements. They honestly appreciate the way these projects do and will provide a benefit for all."

St. George Uses Funds to Create a Haven for Parishioners

St. George is located in the southwest corner of the archdiocese at 6707 W. 175th in Tinley Park. As the village's first church, opened in 1934, St. George is a welcoming community with a sense of tradition among its well-established parishioners. St. George prides itself on having a strong Catholic education program in place at its school, great liturgies, and a variety of ministries.

Through the help of its *To Teach Who Christ Is* representative within the archdiocese, St. George conducted a well-organized campaign, where leadership focused on major goals, articulated parish needs, made personal commitments, and conducted outreach to parishioners for support.



Above is St. George's altar, decorated for Easter 2018. Photo credit to Ray Szotek, a parishioner who photographs many of St. George's events.

"We are so grateful for the sacrifice the team made every week to bring this campaign to life, as well as the sacrificial giving and commitment by our generous parishioners," said Darlene Georges, business manager at St. George. "Through them, we have achieved so much."

Updates included more room between solid oak pews, updated HVAC, a reorientation of the sanctuary, upgraded insulation, and LED lighting to brighten the church inside and out. Additionally, tile and carpet were restored, the ceiling and walls were freshly painted, and a new color scheme and sound system help further focus attention on the celebration of the Eucharist.

As far as next steps for funds, Fr. Ken Fleck, pastor at St. George, noted, "We still need to update frames for the protection of our stained glass, and conduct maintenance to our steeple. We will also order a new altar to complement our new orientation. Of course, we are setting funds for our school and religious education programs. Our ever-present goal is that our children will be given a foundation with the values we pass along through education, formation, and the example they see in our ministries. We are thrilled to be building the future together with our parishioners to instill solid Catholic values."

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$423,565,337*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$186,750,751

Percent Paid to Date: 53%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



835 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611

tel 312.534.8500

toteachwhochristis.org | ensenarquienesristo.org



@toteachcampaign



www.facebook.com/toteachcampaign