

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

May 2018

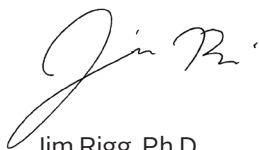
Dear Friends,

We are approaching the end of another school year filled with learning, faith formation, and memories that will last a lifetime. Our students continue to thrive through the Christ-centered, rigorous education in our Catholic schools. I am always amazed at the daily miracles occurring in our classrooms!

The 2017/18 school year was a time of giving and celebration, with our more than 78,000 students participating in causes and events through the archdiocese. In October, our schools, along with Catholic Charities, collected more than 125,000 food items as part of the *Soup-er Stadium Challenge*, providing meals to Chicagoans in need. In addition, six of our schools received a Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education for academic excellence and progress in closing student achievement gaps. In early 2018, we participated in National Catholic Schools Week with special activities, projects and Masses to honor Catholic schools here and across the country.

Our schools provide the next generation with the knowledge and faith they will need to change a troubled world. Our mission would not be possible without your support. Phoenix Scholarships founded by the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign support hundreds of scholarships to families across the archdiocese. Your generosity is helping to remove obstacles that prevent families from coming to our schools. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Christ,



Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of Chicago

St. Theresa Concludes Major Construction with Forward-thinking Eye

The mission of St. Theresa is to share Christ through the sacraments, education, prayer, and service. Located in Palatine, St. Theresa is currently home to more than 3,500 families, about 10,000 people, and 361 students receive a Catholic education at the parish's grade school.



Among the many internal and external updates St. Theresa made to its structures and landscape is the creation of a structure to unite the church, office building, and school, which will make traveling between buildings easier, particularly for students during extreme weather.

Recently, St. Theresa concluded a major construction project that allowed it to update and beautify its campus in a way that will make an enormous impact on the parish, its congregants, and its students. When putting to work the funds resulting from the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, St. Theresa had a broader, master plan set in motion, which made it easy to identify opportunities to maximize campaign support.

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“Because we were folding our *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign in with our master plan to address our parish’s construction needs, we hired independent counsel to assist us in the campaign, which was a tremendous help,” explained Fr. Tim Fairman, pastor at St. Theresa. “We accomplished all of our recommended measures and, combined with receiving an anonymous donation from a group of parishioners, we were able to reach our campaign finance goals and complete our proposed construction project over a two-year period.”

St. Theresa concluded major construction that allowed the parish to update its campus and create a new structure to unite the church, office building, and school, easing travel, particularly for students, so they could transfer from building to building without needing to brave the elements. Additionally, a variety of updates were made internally and externally to structures and landscaping, and with three of five buildings on campus benefitting from renovations, the impact on the parish has been and will be transformative for St. Theresa in the current day-to-day and for many years to come.

“The campaign became a springboard for our parishioners to support a project that addresses needs for the future of Catholic education in our parish,” noted Fr. Tim. “That, when coupled with a new curricular focus for our school, enables us to only further fulfill St. Theresa’s mission and sets us up for success as we attract twenty-first century families to a Catholic school education and formation. The campaign also allowed our parishioners to support the mission of the Archdiocese of Chicago.”

St. Peter Volo Brings New and Old Worlds Together

It’s a big year for St. Peter Church in Volo. This year, the parish rejoices in 150 years of Catholic service and witness to its community. And to celebrate, this summer, the parish will unveil something that brings together the old world and the new.

“When we started this campaign, we couldn’t help but think about bringing St. Peter’s back to its original look,” said Fr. Anthony Rice, SJC, pastor at St. Peter’s. “The current church building was built in 1925, but in 1961, a storm destroyed our bell tower. We decided to restore the bell tower to its original form, a symbol of beauty and serenity with a bit of nostalgia and tradition.”



The new bell tower at St. Peter’s, which will be completed this summer, is being constructed with details from the original 1925 blueprints, and will bring the sound of a church bell to Volo and to neighboring areas.

Construction will finish by mid-June, and the parish will highlight its new addition during its anniversary Mass and picnic on June 24. The single-bell tower will be restored according to its original architecture, taking every detail from the 1925 blueprints, and the bell will be blessed by Bishop Joseph N. Perry on May 15.

Fr. Anthony says when it came time to ignite the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, the case for the restored bell tower made an impression on parishioners.

“We found this was a project our parishioners strongly supported,” said Fr. Anthony. “When we started sharing regular updates – a chart showing how much support was needed, updates at committee meetings, information in bulletins – it got everyone excited and wanting to support the project.”

St. Peter’s is a lively, growing parish and a spiritual home for nearly 400 families. Fr. Anthony, a member of the Canons Regular of St. John Cantius, seeks to nurture a continuing renewal of the Christian life through the revitalization of Church architecture, sacred music, and liturgy. He is thrilled construction on the new bell tower will be finished in time for summer celebrations.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$424,312,823*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$190,110,285

Percent Paid to Date: 54%

*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



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