

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

June 2018

Dear Friends,

As summer approaches, the days grow longer and our schedules seem to fill up faster. We find ourselves busy with graduations, weddings, and gatherings that allow us to celebrate life and time with family and friends. While the rising temperatures give most of us the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, I also think of those who need shelter or refuge from the heat, or even a place to play during long summer days.

Over the past few years, many parishes have been revitalized through the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign to provide shelter and a safe haven for those in need, especially during these warmer summer months. I am so grateful for the many ways our parishes continually think of others when planning how to implement the support from *To Teach Who Christ Is*. Not only are they helping better our communities through new programs, structural improvements and scholarships for education; they are teaching people who Christ is through their kindness and generous spirits. It is inspiring to witness.

This summer, when you gather in parishes across the archdiocese, may you be reminded of how the Holy Spirit is working through *To Teach Who Christ Is*. As always, I thank you for your continued support for this campaign.

Yours in Christ,



Steven Messina
Senior Director, Major Gifts

St. Jerome Builds New Adoration Chapel with Parishioners for Prayer and Reflection



To construct the Adoration Chapel, St. Jerome employed funds from the campaign and received assistance from parishioner volunteers. St. Jerome is thrilled to offer this additional place for prayer.

St. Jerome is located in Rogers Park, close to Loyola University, and serves Chicago's north side. The parish is diverse, full of young families, and full of life. St. Jerome's church building was constructed in 1913, and over time, a convent, school, parish center, and rectory building were added. The church itself is filled with detail and art, including paintings that depict the history of the foundation of the Church, as well as the politics of the Church when the parish was built. St. Jerome also features the longest aisle in the archdiocese, making it a preferred destination for weddings in Chicago. Unification

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is its mission, as St. Jerome strives to unite parishioners, highlight the gift of diversity, and follow the Gospel of Jesus by virtue of Baptism.

When it came time to employ funds from the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, the parish chose to reconstruct its Adoration Chapel, as parishioners were longing to have a space to gather intimately with Jesus.

“Our parishioners felt strongly this was an addition we needed for St. Jerome. That’s likely why, in addition to the invaluable funds from *To Teach Who Christ Is*, many parishioners donated their time and talent to make the Adoration Chapel a reality,” said Fr. Noel Reyes, pastor at St. Jerome. “We were unstoppable and efficient, building the chapel over the course of one month.”

Today, the chapel hosts all devotions, including praying the Rosary every day, evening adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Mass in the mornings, and it also serves as a room for wake services.

As far as cultivating support and donations for the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, Fr. Noel says consistency and a reputation for service were key.

“Through the campaign we shared consistent and repetitive announcements and reminders in many forms. But I also think it’s the work we have done throughout our history and continue to do for our community that inspires our people to give more. When our parishioners saw the project was going on, their enthusiasm was palpable, and we couldn’t be more grateful for their support and the support of this campaign, which helped us illuminate our parish even more and provide the resources to continue the mission of our faith community.”

Oldest Parish in Chicago Exceeds Campaign Goal to Build Parish Center

The oldest parish serving Chicago, Old St. Mary’s, was founded in 1833 before the city was incorporated and when the population consisted of around 350 people. With well over 150 years of history under its belt, the parish, located at 1500 S. Michigan, serves the spiritual needs of the Loop and South Loop.

While the parish’s current facilities are fairly new, Father Paul Huesing and his staff were still eager to become involved in the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign to raise funds to help complete the building of the Petermann Parish Center.

“This was a significant project for our parish that had tremendous support from our parishioners,” said Fr. Paul. “*To Teach Who Christ Is* provided essential funding in the final stages of garnering support, and without the campaign, construction of the parish center would still be a dream.”



Old St. Mary’s parish center was completed in 2016, and its gymnasium and updated facilities serve the community as a place to gather for physical activity, meetings, and more.

Old St. Mary’s exceeded its campaign goal, and the new parish center was completed and dedicated in 2016. From the school’s perspective, the gymnasium housed in the building means children no longer need to be transported to other sites for physical education and sports activities. Equipped with additional updated facilities, the center also provides space for meetings, reflections days, small group activities, marriage preparation, etc. In addition, the school conducts music classes in the building and once a year produces a musical. Because of the parish center, Old St. Mary’s is able to better serve the broader community with a variety of outreach programs.

“We are so grateful the campaign assisted not only our parish and school, but many other parishes and schools,” said Fr. Paul. “*To Teach Who Christ Is* provided a wonderful community building experience, bringing so many volunteers and parishioners together, and we’ve enjoyed being a part of it.”

To learn more about this parish, please visit oldstmarys.com.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$424,508,252*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$193,581,050

Percent Paid to Date: 55%

*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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