



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

August 2018

Dear Friends,

August is a joyous month in Catholic education. It is during this month that we begin the new school year, welcoming over 75,000 students into our 209 Catholic schools. Each new school year is a fresh start, an opportunity to positively impact the lives of our students through rigorous teaching and faith formation.

Our theme for this school year is "Faith to Move Mountains." As Christ reminds us in the Gospel of Matthew, even faith as small as a mustard seed can enable us to move mountains. We chose this theme to encourage our students to have faith in the Lord as they journey through this school year.

We continue to move mountains in our schools. We are in the midst of our second year of Renewal and Hope, our Catholic School Strategic Plan, which provides focused new initiatives and investments to strengthen our educational ministry. We also continue to move mountains for our families through needs-based scholarships, such as the Phoenix scholarship funded by this campaign. Your generosity is truly making a difference for thousands of children in our Catholic schools!

I thank God for your outstanding support of our Archdiocesan ministries. You are truly helping us move mountains!

Yours in Christ,

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

Donor and Pastor Profile: An Interview with Reverend Ralph Zwirin

As pastor of Saint Anne parish (located at 16801 Dixie Hwy in Hazel Crest), Reverend Ralph Zwirin not only led the efforts of the parish's *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, but became heavily involved in the campaign. Please see below for an interview with Reverend Ralph.



Pictured above are before and after images of the church pew and carpeting project Saint Anne Parish completed as a result of funds from the campaign.

What was your role throughout the campaign and why did you choose to get involved?

As pastor of the parish, I made the request to become part of the pilot program. Once accepted, I worked closely with our consultant and chose my team of staff and parishioners who would accept the responsibility of rolling out the campaign to the parish. It was ultimately my responsibility to keep us on track from inception to the conclusion of the campaign.

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While we did not have any urgent needs to meet for our capital campaign, it was our hope to use the campaign to refresh our worship space.

Can you reflect on the impact your efforts had on your faith or parish life?

I truly believe that the campaign energized our parish family. In addition to raising the funds needed for the projects, it inspired parishioners and volunteers to share their talents with our parish. Not only did the campaign renew our worship space, it renewed our parish family.

Has your parish completed any projects with its campaign funds?

I am very happy to say that we were able to raise the funds needed to complete all three of our projects: replacing our church pews, kneelers and carpeting, and installing new lighting. Our parish administrative assistant, Dee Vera, spearheaded the efforts to find the contractors for our projects, including a three-month long search for the used pews. We would not have been able to stick with our budget without her.

How did you keep the campaign in front of the parish to encourage fulfillment of pledges?

We hosted planning meetings to gather advice and preferences from our parishioners throughout the campaign. These meetings were very well attended and provided us with excellent ideas and suggestions. The campaign was also featured in our parish bulletin and included progress and financial reports.

To learn more about Saint Anne parish, please visit saintanneparish.org.

St. Vincent Ferrer Update: The Dedication of Kyte Hall

On December 10, St. Vincent Ferrer parish, located at 1530 Jackson Ave in River Forest, dedicated their new multipurpose facility, Kyte Hall, named in memory of the parish's late beloved associate pastor, Father Michael Kyte, OP. The idea of Kyte Hall arose in 2014 when pastor, Father Thomas McDermott, OP, and staff recognized the need for a suitable meeting place.



Around 300 people attended the dedication of Kyte Hall, St. Vincent Ferrer parish's new multipurpose facility.

"Before Kyte Hall, our parish had only one meeting room in the former convent which could accommodate 50 people at most," said Father Thomas. "This was one of the reasons the parish had lapsed into inactivity for many years and after being approached by the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign committee, we knew it was the perfect opportunity to raise funds."

Father Thomas and the rest of the parish were tasked to raise at least \$2.5 million and after receiving many generous donations, construction began in April 2017. Construction ended in the winter and was followed by the building's dedication, which was attended by around 300 people. Those in attendance included the parish's auxiliary bishop, Bishop John Manz, and village presidents of River Forest and Elmwood Park. The mass was led by the parish's Dominican provincial, Fr. James Marchionda, and followed by the dedication of the building.

Since the dedication, Kyte Hall has been fully utilized. The parish hosts discussions and meetings after Sunday masses and during the week, and St. Vincent Ferrer students are now able to eat in the new lunchroom which connects to the school.

"If it had not been for *To Teach Who Christ Is* we would have probably never had the idea to embark on a \$2.5 million building project," said Father Thomas. "Our experience with the campaign was excellent and we appreciated being advised and directed by the *To Teach Who Christ Is* committee consultant. We are forever grateful for this campaign."

To learn more about St. Vincent Ferrer parish, please visit svfparish.org.

Avid readers of our newsletter may remember the first feature on St. Vincent Ferrer which was published in August 2017 around the parish raising funds and beginning construction. Please visit giving.archchicago.org/ttwci to view the article.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$422,551,819*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$199,429,169

Percent Paid to Date: 57%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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