



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation September 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign momentum continues, with the team and I continuing to look for opportunities to raise awareness of the campaign and connect with parishes and students in need. Within this month's edition of the newsletter, we hope to provide our donors with an update on the campaign and the initiatives our major gift officers have been working on the past several months.

Madelyn Patterson, one of our major gift officers, has been a part of the campaign since 2014. Her work with many parishes, pastors and donors has provided keen insight on how to serve the archdiocese. Madelyn and the rest of the team have also been working diligently to provide students and families within the Archdiocese of Chicago information on the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program. This initiative helps children in Illinois attend a private school of their choice while simultaneously providing donors with a 75 percent state income tax credit through need-based scholarships. Our second article features a family near and dear to our hearts who have benefitted from the program.

While our campaign efforts continue, we'd ask that donors and parishes continue pushing forward as well. As 55 percent of our pledges have been fulfilled, we have seen so many amazing projects born of *To Teach Who Christ Is*. Thank you, as always, for your generosity.

Yours in Christ,

Steve Messina
Senior Director, Major Gifts

An Interview with Major Gifts Officer, Madelyn Patterson



Throughout the past several months, Madelyn Patterson (left), major gifts officer, and the rest of the major gifts team have been focused on the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

What projects/initiatives has the team been working on the past several months?

Over the past several months, the major gifts officers have been focusing on the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program, an initiative that benefits students from families with limited financial resources who are eligible to receive a tax credit scholarship. I am happy to report through the Invest in Kids Program, over 3,500 students have been awarded a scholarship for the coming 2018/19 school year. We've met with families throughout the archdiocese who have either applied or received a scholarship. The stories are inspiring, heartwarming, and some are very sad. All they want is a better opportunity for their child to grow in faith and love for God in a school setting.

What plans does the team have for the future of *To Teach Who Christ Is*?

The future is very exciting for the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign. Although we have said goodbye to the active portion of the campaign, there is a lot of work to be done. We have a great team

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helping parishes create pledge redemption plans that fit their needs, assisting donors with their questions and concerns, and sharing the impact of these fruitful gifts with donors, pastors and volunteers.

What has been your favorite part of working on this phase of the campaign?

I have enjoyed almost every part of working on the campaign, but this phase is very special because I get to continue connecting with the parishes I worked with over two years ago. It's neat to be working alongside them as they begin and complete their projects.

Have meetings and discussions with donors and parishes continued?

Yes, I do not think they have ever stopped. It is our responsibility to strategize with pastors about their stewardship initiatives, assist in the Annual Catholic Appeal process and help with campaign pledge fulfillment.

The best conversations I have are with donors. There is nothing like being welcomed into someone's home and connecting with them as they share their story and what inspires them to give.

Are there any other initiatives donors or parishes should be aware of?

There are many ways donors can support the archdiocese. Our mission is to provide opportunities for our parishes and the people of our local communities to put faith into action. It's through our initiatives and programs that we encourage people to deepen their faith in Christ and live as disciples through each aspect of life.

St. John Berchmans Family Benefits from Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship

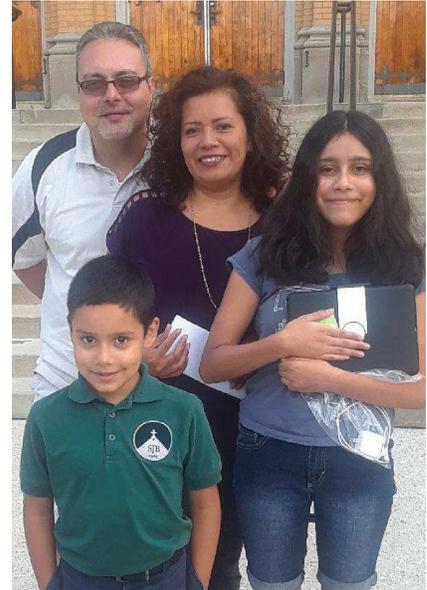
Alexander Rodriguez and Mabel Alfonso's children, Daniela (seventh grade) and David (second grade), have attended St. John Berchmans School since pre-kindergarten, and both Alexander and Mabel have appreciated the opportunity their children have had receiving Catholic education.

"Daniela and David feel like they're at home when they're in school," said Mabel. "The teachers are perfect, they've made so many friends and the kids are known by all of the staff. They are more than just a number to the school and I can see the positive impact their education has on them on a daily basis."

Due to the expense of private schooling, Alexander and Mabel have to revisit putting their kids in Catholic schools each year. This year, they were presented with the opportunity to apply for the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship, a program that provides children from low-income households with scholarships to be able to attend private schools. The scholarships offered through this program cover up to 100 percent of tuition and eligible fees. Both Daniela and David received the scholarship and will be attending St. John Berchmans for the 2018/19 school year.

"Being able to keep our kids in Catholic schools for another year is a tremendous blessing for our family and we are so grateful for the archdiocese and the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign," said Mabel. "Our children are not only receiving quality education, but they're also learning about morals and values, and they are growing in their relationship with Christ. It's something they'd only be able to experience through Catholic schooling."

The Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program, Invest in Kids, provides a 75 percent Illinois state income tax credit to individuals and corporations that contribute money to a non-profit Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). For more information, or to donate to a tax credit scholarship, please visit schools.archchicago.org/tax-credit-scholarships.



Pictured above are Alexander, Mabel, Daniela and David. The family is extremely grateful to be receiving the Invest in Kids Scholarship for both of their children.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$420,872,915*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 120%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$201,277,800

Percent Paid to Date: 57%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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