

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On September 17, my classmates and friends, Robert Casey and Mark Bartosic, and I were ordained as auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Feelings of joy and hope were palpable as the prayers and songs of nearly a thousand people filled the cathedral.

In his homily for the ordination Mass, Cardinal Cupich said, "Preaching and proclaiming God's Word is fundamentally about inviting people into the dialogue God is already having with them. This means looking on people the way Jesus did, with deep respect for all as fellow pilgrims. That attentiveness must be given especially to the poor, Pope Francis tells us, for they oftentimes are sensitive to values and aspects of Christian morality that the powerful and educated overlook. And in this moment of great shame for the Church, the poorest among us are the victim-survivors of clerical sexual abuse. The bravery and courage they have shown have challenged a complacency that for many decades ignored the pain of a child and was shamefully more preoccupied with institutional self-protection and image. We have done much to cleanse the Church of that disordered, conscience-shocking way of doing things, but we must do more to hear the cries of all those who have been injured and take up a new the path of healing and justice."

The powerful and prophetic words from Cardinal Cupich's homily not only inspired us, but gave us a profound call to action as we take this next step in our faith journey.

During my time working with this campaign, I have witnessed countless people who have shared God's love genuinely and served their neighbors as themselves. It's my prayer that we'll continue to follow the Cardinal's message and do everything we can to ensure our campaigns and initiatives reflect Christ's love. As always, thank you for your outstanding generosity and commitment.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop Ronald Hicks
Vicar General

Newly Ordained Bishop Casey and Bishop Bartosic Each Led Campaigns while Pastors at Archdiocese Parishes

During the ordination of the archdiocese's newest bishops, Bishop Ronald Hicks, Bishop Robert Casey and Bishop Mark Bartosic, there was a sense of joy and hope throughout Holy Name Cathedral with Cardinal Cupich and the congregation celebrating their continued commitment to the Church.



On Sept. 17, Bishops Mark Bartosic, Robert Casey and Ronald Hicks were ordained by Cardinal Cupich at Holy Name Cathedral.

Each Bishop has been heavily involved in ministries and programs across the archdiocese, including the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, helping reach campaign goals and support parishes in their quest to complete several renovation projects. While Bishop Hicks has served as the Vicar General, contributing much of his time to overseeing the campaign, Bishop Casey and Bishop Bartosic have been involved on the parish level, both leading campaigns. Please read below for their experience with the campaign.

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Bishop Robert Casey Overcomes Campaign Challenges, Leading Campaigns at Two Parishes

Bishop Robert Casey's support of *To Teach Who Christ Is* spanned across his time at two parishes. His first encounter with the campaign began at St. Barbara Parish located at 4008 Prairie Ave in Brookfield and he continued campaigning efforts at St. Bede the Venerable Parish located at 4440 W. 83rd St. in Chicago.

"At St. Barbara, I found myself challenged by the campaign in the beginning and a number of pastors in the area shared my concerns," said Bishop Casey. "Our parishioners were being asked to give to a number of collections for the parish's Sunday collection, Catholic School collection and building fund collection. With so many giving opportunities, the congregation felt over-asked and unsure of which collection should take priority."

As time went on, raising funds for the campaign became more manageable and parishioners were able to focus their contributions on the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign. As people began to see that the proceeds of the campaign would help bring the parish's projects to life, they felt more encouraged to contribute to the campaign.

At St. Bede the Venerable, Bishop Casey was able to witness the fruits of the campaign after the parish reached its campaign goal. The funds gave the parish the opportunity to improve the worship space, and due to generous contributions from parishioners, St. Bede the Venerable was able to install new marble flooring in the sanctuary, make improvements to the choir loft and the sound system, and update lighting and flooring throughout the church.



Pictured above were some of the renovations made to St. Bede the Venerable parish (left) and Our Lady of Charity parish (right).

"The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign has helped awaken our parishes to the importance of stewardship," said Bishop Casey. "When we are all committed to the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure, we are better able to continue the mission and the ministry that has been handed on to us by the generations of Catholics who have gone before us. Stewardship requires that we accept both responsibility and accountability for how we care for the people and the property of our parishes, and we're doing just that with this campaign."

Bishop Mark Bartosic Oversees Parish Renovations and Shifts Response to Campaign

Bishop Bartosic was also involved with the campaign at two parishes. He implemented the campaign at Our Lady of Charity located at 3600 S. 57th Ct. in Cicero, where the parish planned to perform simple renovations in the church, focusing on the sanctuary, and a refresh of the bathrooms.

"Following the pledge fulfillment portion of our campaign, we were able to complete many of the renovations needed to beautify the church," said Bishop Bartosic. "Wood flooring was installed under the sanctuary. A

beautiful reredos was constructed behind the altar, showcasing a commissioned statue of the patroness. The parish was able to make other cosmetic updates when the new pastor arrived."

In July 2016, Bishop Bartosic was assigned to be the pastor at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish located at 2434 S. California Ave. in Chicago. At the time of his arrival, fulfillment of campaign pledges had been very poor, but after sharing his experience and the positive impact the campaign had on Our Lady of Charity, enthusiasm for the campaign began to mount.

"Being a part of the campaign at Our Lady of Charity, I knew how important the campaign was and how crucial it would be to revitalizing the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish," said Bishop Bartosic. "We asked the community to recommit to the campaign and with all hands on deck, we nearly doubled our funds."

Side altars original to the design of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin were built and installed in the church. Bishop Bartosic left the parish just after being ordained as Bishop, but the parish still plans to use remaining campaign funds for repairs to the building.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$420,482,328*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 120%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$204,037,566

Percent Paid to Date: 58%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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