

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

Many of you may be familiar with the gathering verse from the book of Matthew (Mt 18:20), “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them”. This time of year, this verse seems to stick in our minds. It’s through Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the importance of gathering with family and friends, and the joy it brings God when we glorify Him through our discussions and time together. Our time spent together gives us the opportunity to draw closer to each other, and has the ability to strengthen our relationship with the Lord.

The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign has provided the funding needed to improve countless gathering spaces across the archdiocese. Whether donations are spent repairing new floors or installing handicap accessible entrances, these renovations allow many parishes to enhance their spiritual offerings and outreach programs. Not only are our parishes and facilities utilized for us to come together and worship, but they also provide shelter and a safe space for those in need. In addition, several programs have been created to bring parishioners together and build communities that foster new hope throughout the Church and beyond.

Your donation and support of this campaign has provided gathering spaces for many, and we are so grateful for your support and everything you’ve helped us accomplish thus far. May God bless you as you gather with your loved ones in the coming weeks.

Campaign Director Profile: Deacon Greg Vogt



Pictured above is Deacon Greg Vogt. Deacon Greg served on St. Theresa's *To Teach Who Christ Is* committee and helped raise funds to renovate the parish.

Why did you choose to get involved with your parish's *TTWCI* campaign and what was your role?

I was a campaign director for the overall *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign and was asked to assist at St. Theresa, located at 455 N. Benton St. in Palatine. I serve as a Deacon for the parish, and because of my experience with the campaign, I was on the committee and asked to raise donations.

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

Throughout the campaign process, I prayed for the parish to come

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together to support our efforts to raise the necessary funds to accomplish our goals. My faith was enriched through meeting parishioners I may not have had an opportunity to meet without the campaign. There was one parishioner in particular that I got to know really well through a home visit. We sat and talked and learned many things about each other, and eventually, I was able to ask for a donation. The parishioner gladly accepted and thanked me for thinking of them, taking the time out of my day to visit, and serving the Church. I am so happy I was able to get to be a part of this campaign and get to know my fellow parishioners on a deeper level.

Has your parish completed any projects with its *TTWCI* funds?

Yes, as a result of *To Teach Who Christ Is* funding, almost the entire campus was renovated, including an addition to the parish school building, improvements made to the parish meeting space, installation of a new gym floor, roof and HVAC units, and asbestos abatement. In addition, a new entrance pavilion now links the school building to the church and allows for one central shared entrance for the parish and school offices. The generosity at St. Theresa parish has allowed us to create a safe and united campus.

How have you kept the campaign in front of the parish to encourage fulfillment of their initial pledges?

We continue to include information in our marketing materials and share updates from the pulpit. We've also hosted tours of the updated campus to show our community the benefits of the campaign firsthand.

St. Irenaeus Continues to Proclaim the Love of Christ in Newly Renovated Parish Space

Inspired by the words of St. Irenaeus, "Humankind fully alive is God truly glorified", St. Irenaeus Parish, located at 78 Cherry St in Park Forest, has been serving parishioners for 70 years. The parish is dedicated to spreading God's love and creating outreach programs that help those in need in the local community.

When the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign began at the parish, the executive team came together and worked effortlessly to develop a plan to ensure the campaign would be successful. The parish's initial goal was \$375,000 and the executive committee, along with the finance team, decided to do an enhanced goal of \$500,000, which was met with a total of \$526,000.

"We made the decision to spend 25 percent of the campaign total on the formation of children, youth and adults, and the remaining 75 percent on capital repairs," said Fr. Terry Johnson, head pastor at St. Irenaeus. "We wanted to use our funds on more than just the physical changes needed to strengthen and repair our parish. We wanted to make a lasting impact on parishioners who do so much for the church."



St. Irenaeus Parish, located in Park Forest, exceeded their campaign goal and was able to spend 75 percent on capital repairs and 25 percent on faith formation.

With a portion of the donations set aside for faith formation, the parish was able to provide two Lenten books for their faith sharing groups, and Little Blue, Black and White Books from the Diocese of Saginaw for parishioners. In addition, last Lent, the parish, along with parishes in St. Irenaeus' Renew My Church grouping, jointly sponsored a Lenten Parish Mission: The Parables of the Lost, the Patience and Passion of God.

Capital repairs included the rebuilding of the parapet wall of the sacristy, roof repairs, tuckpointing of the chimney, installation of energy efficient LED lighting, painting and renovations were made to the kitchen for the parish's PADS guests and food pantry clients.

"The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign has enabled the parish to make capital repairs that needed to be accomplished for a number of years and offered opportunities for formation that live out the mission and ministry of the gospel. We are truly a blessed community of faith," said Fr. Terry Johnson.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall campaign goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$420,317,406*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 120%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$205,709,265

Percent Paid to Date: 59%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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