

# TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation January 2019

## Our Plans For 2019

With 2019 in full swing, our team is diligently working to connect with donors, discuss next steps for the last phase of the campaign and ensure that each parish's campaign plan is brought to fruition in the quickest and easiest way possible. As you may have read in last month's newsletter, we've accomplished so much the past several years, but we still have a lot to tackle in the next year or two, and it's thanks to the generosity of donors we can reach our goals and continue serving our parishes and schools.

Throughout this year, we plan to focus on 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. In addition, we will be dedicating much of our time to the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship, as well as other scholarships that give students the financial assistance they need to continue attending Catholic school.

We thank all of the parishes for keeping the campaign at the forefront of communications and helping us as we continue to raise money to strengthen our Church. This campaign is a major contribution to the future of our Church, and it's through your generosity, we can live out the archdiocese's mission for years to come.

## St. Joseph of Round Lake Completes Necessary Renovations and Continues to Serve Their Community



St. Joseph parish used campaign funds to renovate the church's parking lot and repair the roof.

St. Joseph parish, located at 114 North Lincoln Avenue in Round Lake, has served as a worship site for more than 100 years, making it a historical landmark to the town and its surrounding communities. St. Joseph is not only the cornerstone of their church community, but also provides a place to congregate, pray, reflect, educate and spread God's love. The parish's mission is to foster a Christ-like spirit of prayer, participation, cooperation and stewardship in all members of the parish, manifest unity through respect and representation of various cultures, and communicate and express the needs of the whole parish in the humble example of St. Joseph.

In 2015, St. Joseph began fundraising for the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, and immediately began connecting with parishioners

*Continued on back*

Continued from front

on campaign goals and plans for utilizing funds. The parish sent out email blasts, created videos, shared information on their website, and discussed the campaign at ministry meetings, parish events and Mass.

"It was extremely important for us to be a part of the campaign and assist the archdiocese in their mission to strengthen parishes across Chicagoland," said Adolfo Benages, operations director of St. Joseph parish. "We took many avenues to reach our parishioners and help them understand the campaign. We had renovations we wanted to complete, and knew it would literally take a village to achieve our campaign goal."

The generosity of parishioners allowed St. Joseph parish to raise enough money to renovate their parking lots, repair the church's roof and replace their heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, all being necessary repairs that have been on hold for years.

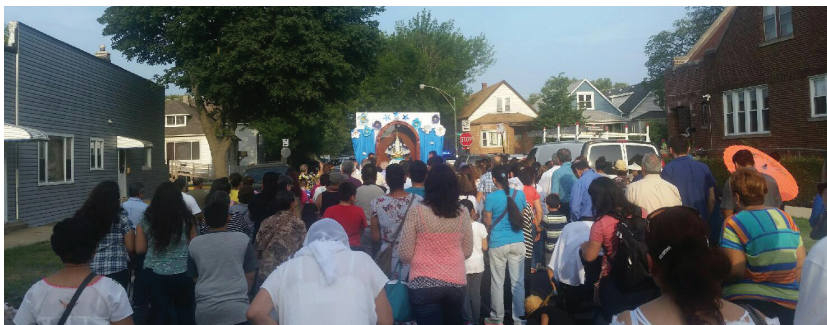
"Our parking lots are the path parishioners and visitors take to be a part of our place of worship, participate in mass and other sacramental events, and serve as a drop off space for children attending school or religious education classes," said Benages. "St. Joseph is extremely grateful for the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign because it served as a conduit to raise money for the things our parish needed to continue our ministries and serve our community."

Funding from the campaign has allowed the parish to enjoy their events and programs without the stress of worrying about the church's facilities. For more information on St. Joseph of Round Lake, please visit [stjosephchurchrl.com](http://stjosephchurchrl.com).

## Campaign Funds Support Evangelization Programs at St. Francis de Sales Parish

St. Francis de Sales, located at 10201 South Ewing Avenue in Chicago, is heavily focused on evangelization, vocations and leadership. The church provides parishioners with multiple opportunities to attend evangelization classes and workshops, and Eucharistic Adoration, encouraging everyone to strive for a lasting relationship with Jesus, the greatest evangelizer of all.

"When we were approached by the archdiocese about the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, we knew it would be a great initiative to be a part of because we've always wanted to continue our evangelization programs and further our reach and commitment to our local community," said Father Armand Ramirez, head pastor of St. Francis de Sales.



St. Francis de Sales parish gave thanks to the campaign for the many blessings it gave to their church during their annual gathering.

Father Armand believes that generosity and evangelization go hand in hand and it's through giving and charitable actions that we help spread the Gospel. The parishioners of St. Francis de Sales take Father Armand's thinking to heart and are extremely generous throughout the year, and went the extra mile when it came to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

Campaign funds allowed the parish to revamp its evangelization programs and retreats, which was the parish's main fundraising goal. In addition, the parish raised enough money to make necessary renovations to the church, replace the church's parking lot garage and repair the roof.

"Every year, we give thanks to God and our parishioners through a thanksgiving celebration, and this past year, we had an abundance of blessings to be thankful for as a result of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign," said Father Armand. "We danced, ate and reflected on all of the things the campaign has allowed us to accomplish. We are extremely grateful to be able to be a part of such a special campaign."

St. Francis de Sales will continue living out its mission for years to come and hopes to continue growing its church and drawing people closer to Christ.

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000**

Total Raised to Date: \$422,345,179\*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$216,084,293

Percent Paid to Date: 61%

\*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



835 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611

tel 312.534.8500

[toteachwhochristis.org](http://toteachwhochristis.org) | [ensenarquienes Cristo.org](http://ensenarquienes Cristo.org)



@toteachcampaign



[www.facebook.com/toteachcampaign](http://www.facebook.com/toteachcampaign)