

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

June 2019

Working to Gather Feedback from our Donors

Our newsletter's first edition was published in May 2014 and over the years we've developed countless parish success stories, renovation updates, donor profiles, student testimonials and more. With the campaign still in the active phase, we want to ensure we're continuing to provide our donors with the best content possible and we're working on our end to gather feedback and revisit some of the impactful stories we've shared in the past.

It's important for us to continue keeping our donors in the loop on the programs, initiatives and groups/parishes your gracious donations are going towards, and also keep you apprised of campaign updates. As we work through the fulfillment phase of our campaign, we'd kindly ask that you provide feedback when presented with the opportunity to do so. Please stay tuned for a link to a short survey.

We thank you in advance for your time and always graciously giving to this campaign. It's because of your generosity this campaign has been a continued success over the years. We pray your summer is off to a great start and you're able to relax and enjoy time with loved ones in the coming months. God bless you all.

Dedicated Parishioner of Assumption Church in River North Donates to *To Teach Who Christ Is* Campaign



Pictured above are Rev. Fr. Joseph Chamblain, pastor at Assumption Church, and Ed Phillipp, parishioner and campaign donor.

Assumption Church, located at 323 W. Illinois St. in Chicago, was founded in 1881 to develop a community for Italian immigrants who had settled in the city. Assumption is a historic gathering place for many across the city and now serves a diverse community of neighborhood residents, parishioners who work in the city, historic parishioners and tourists who have come to visit and worship in the church. Since the parish's establishment, Assumption has been staffed by the Order of Friar Servants of Mary, a religious community founded in Italy in the thirteenth century.

The large stained-glass window above the altar represents the assumption of Mary, tying into the name of the parish. It is patterned after a number of famous paintings including El Greco's, *The Assumption of the Virgin*, which is part of the collection at The Art Institute of Chicago.

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Ed Phillipp has been a parishioner at Assumption for seven years and recently became involved in the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign. Please read below for more about his time as a parishioner at Assumption and experience being a donor of the campaign.

Can you please reflect on your time as a parishioner at Assumption parish?

Assumption is the cornerstone of my spiritual and faith life. When I attend mass at Assumption, I am reminded of the reverence of our Creator and this thought allows me to ask myself: where is God in my life and in my actions?

Why did you choose to get involved with Assumption parish's TTWCI campaign?

First, and foremost to support our pastor, Father Joseph Champlain/Servites, in his mission to provide a spiritual center in the community for my neighbors who come to seek the Lord. My gift is an expression of gratitude to everyone who has taught me to be generous.

What elements of your parish or the archdiocese TTWCI case statement spoke to you?

Assumption parish needed capital funding to make necessary improvements to restore their stain glass windows and accommodate disabled and elderly parishioners. Capital improvements ensure the parish will be able to continue its 140-year-old mission of serving the needs of the community well into the future. The beauty and design of Assumption serves to inspire those who visit and remind them of their relationship with God.

To learn more about the parish, please visit assumption-chgo.org.

Immaculate Conception Church Continues to Raise Funds to Maintain Grounds and Continue Living Out the Parish's Mission

Immaculate Conception Church, located in the south side of Chicago at 8756 S. Commercial Ave., lies in an economically devastated area of the city. The surrounding communities and strong parishioners help fuel the parish's mission to provide a place of worship and evangelization, offer educational and faith opportunities and serve the needs of others.



Immaculate Conception continues to raise money for the campaign, and has been able to use initial funding to make external renovations to the church and updates to the parish's hall.

Immaculate Conception is still in the thick of the campaign, and parish staff continues to encourage parishioners to fulfill their pledges through bulletin articles that keep parishioners up-to-date on financial reports and campaign progress. In addition, the parish displays a thermometer at church with the amount they've collected. The campaign committee continues to meet to strategize ways to inspire parishioners to fulfill their pledges and continue working towards meeting and exceeding the parish's campaign goal.

While the parish is still working to raise money, they have been able to complete external renovations to protect the church and school building. Due to the generosity of donors, the parish installed new windows in both buildings, new lights in the church hall and stage curtains.

"We are extremely grateful for the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign because it helped us realize we needed extra funding to maintain and improve our place of worship and school," said Maria, secretary at Immaculate Conception. "It's through this campaign, our parishioners were informed of the urgent repairs our facilities needed, and we'll continue to work together to raise money and hopefully complete all of the essential renovations."

Immaculate Conception plans on using additional funds to fix the school boiler and update the church hall floor.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$423,125,231*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$227,774,626

Percent Paid to Date: 65%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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