

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation February 2020

New Scholarship Named After Archbishop Wilton Gregory

More than 350 supporters of Catholic education attended the sixth annual Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast on Tuesday, January 21 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago. Speakers included Catholic Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim Rigg, Cardinal Blase Cupich and Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Washington D.C., alumnus of the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools.

Archbishop Gregory attended St. Carthage Grammar School, where he became Catholic. At a young age, Archbishop Gregory felt a calling to become a priest and enrich the lives of parishioners and students. During the breakfast, a scholarship was announced in Archbishop Gregory's name. The scholarship will benefit students across the archdiocese, including the Our Lady of Perpetual Help partner schools, St. Phillip Neri, St. Sabina and Our Lady of Tepeyac.

The Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast benefits innovative academic programs in the archdiocese's schools and proceeds will also support professional development programs for principals and emergency tuition assistance for students. We are extremely grateful for the supporters of this specific event and Catholic education.

For more information on the Archbishop Gregory D. Wilton Scholarship Fund, please contact Patrick Lynch at plynch@archchicago.org or 312.534.8178.

To Teach Who Christ Is Campaign Q&A

After completing our newsletter survey and providing donors with an opportunity to share feedback, we gathered a handful of questions donors had regarding the campaign. Please see below for some of the common questions we received. If you have additional questions regarding the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign or newsletter, please contact toteachcampaign@archchicago.org.



Above are images and an artist's rendering of Kyte Hall, a multipurpose space that was recently built at St. Vincent Ferrer parish that will also serve as a lunchroom for the parish's school.

Who are you teaching who Christ is to? What are the objectives and where are the fruits of this project?

Since the inception of the campaign, it has been our primary goal to teach who Christ is to local communities, parishioners, students and families throughout Chicagoland, and continue increasing faith formation within our parishes and schools through program funding, the completion of urgent repairs and growing evangelization programs. Our objectives are to ensure parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago are strong and vibrant communities of faith, Catholic education is strengthened through scholarship opportunities and the enhancement of academic excellence, and religious education continues to improve with new programs and catechist training.

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Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., chose the theme because of its significance to his order, his vision of our archdiocese, and the spirit of the campaign. *To Teach Who Christ Is* comes from the writings of St. Eugene de Mazenod, founder of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, who sought to teach “who Jesus Christ is.” At St. Eugene’s canonization, Pope John Paul II reflected that he was “a man of Advent, a man of the Coming. He not only looked forward to that Coming, he dedicated his whole life to preparing for it, one of those apostles who prepared the modern age, our age.”

How does *To Teach Who Christ Is* differ from other campaigns?

The *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign is the largest capital campaign ever conducted by a Catholic diocese, involving every parish and school within the archdiocese, giving everyone an opportunity to have a part in improving parishes and increasing faith formation throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago. In addition, the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign is parish centric and sixty percent of any funds raised go directly to a local parish.

Where is campaign funding going?

To Teach Who Christ Is is a capital and endowment campaign that has raised more than \$420 million in gifts and pledges: \$150 million for parish needs determined locally, \$150 million for scholarships to Catholic schools through the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust, \$30 million for critical facility issues, \$10 million for religious education training for catechists, \$8 million to enhance the academic excellence of Catholic schools, and \$2 million for innovative new religious education programs.

It seems many of the articles highlight that parishes are spending the money on facilities, that’s not what I thought this campaign was about.

There are several other areas funding is distributed; parishes are not the only focus of our campaign. In the coming months, we hope to do a better job of highlighting our other areas of focus, including academic excellence, religious education and scholarships. To learn more about how funds have been distributed thus far, please visit the *To Teach Who Christ Is* website and read through our most recent summary reports.

There seems to be a lack of follow-up with donors. It hasn’t been easy fulfilling my pledge.

We sincerely apologize if you’ve had trouble fulfilling your pledge. If you ever need help or have questions, our

team is more than happy to help and if you’ve noticed you’re no longer receiving monthly pledge updates/reminders, please call 312.534.8500. To fulfill your pledge, please use our online portal, stock form, or fill out the credit card form available at giving.archchicago.org/to-teach-who-christ-is/manage-your-pledge.



Lay minister Jan Magnuson, who chaired and led Divine Savior parish’s campaign to success, stands in front of the new audio video equipment during the parish’s Advent Adult Faith Formation presentation of “A Thrill of Hope – The Christmas Story in Word and Art.”

Do you have any advice on how to continue fundraising in a parish if money is not coming in as scheduled?

We’ve covered several parish stories where priests have set aside dedicated time to meet with parishioners one-on-one, and the personal contact and explanation of the campaign has been shown to help these parishes reach and exceed their goals. If you’re in need of additional advice, or a strategic plan, Jose Pinones, director of giving, would be more than happy to assist your parish with anything you need. Please contact Jose at 312.534.8278.

I receive the newsletter by both email and U.S. mail. I prefer receipt by email.

If you prefer to receive the newsletter by email or mail, please contact toteachcampaign@archchicago.org to share your preference.

Please cover if any funds are being used to pay for sexual misconduct settlements.

No money donated to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign has been or will be used to defray expenses related to misconduct issues.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$425,510,911*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 122%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$250,095,233

Percent Paid to Date: 71%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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