



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

June 2020

Launch of New Giving Platform

Last month, we proceeded with the launch of the new *To Teach Who Christ Is* payment form in Luminare Online. All **new** pledge payments and one-time gifts for the campaign will be processed via Luminare and all autopay pledge schedules currently established in Give Central will **remain** in Give Central and still be accessible and managed there.

Please note:

- All pledge payments currently being processed in Give Central will continue to process there.
- Credit card updates for pledges running through Give Central will continue to be updated there.
- Effective immediately, all new campaign pledges and gifts, and new *To Teach Who Christ Is* auto-pay pledge payment set-ups will be entered in Luminare Online.
- The ability to give a new gift via Give Central or set up a new autopay schedule through Give Central is now disabled.
- Any pledges that are set up through parish Give Central sites will also remain with these parish instances of Give Central.

Please visit giving.archchicago.org/ttwci/manage-your-pledge to manage your pledge. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the campaign office at 312.534.8500. We hope you all have a blessed month.

Petermann Family’s Generosity Allows Parish to Move Forward with Fundraiser and *TTWCI* Campaign Simultaneously

Tom and Linda Petermann grew up in the Catholic church, both attending Catholic grade schools, and Tom attending Catholic high school and college. The Petermann’s moved to Arlington Heights in 1980, and their four children attended Our Lady of the Wayside (OLW) school. Tom coached basketball teams at OLW and Linda was a room mom for all of their children. Both dedicated many hours working with students and were also involved in Christian Family Movement, a parish-based national network of small groups of Catholics and their families.

In 2009, after their children had grown and moved from home, they decided to move to the city. After relocating, one of their main priorities was to find a parish, and their son and daughter-in-law recommended they visit Old St. Mary’s Church (OSM), located at 1500 S. Michigan Ave. in Chicago.

“What drew us to OSM was the diverse mix of nationalities and cultures, and the church’s common theme of inclusion and welcome,” said Tom. “We participated at OSM as Eucharistic Ministers and I was a member of the parish council. While on the parish council, I saw first-hand, the need for a parish center/gym for the school. There was no place to hold receptions, dances, plays and numerous other activities which enrich a community.”



Pictured above are Tom and Linda Petermann, and their family.

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Fundraisers to build a parish center were underway and a significant amount of money had been raised, but with the launch of *To Teach Who Christ Is*, OSM was told it would have to suspend its parish center fundraising and focus on the new campaign. According to Tom, this caused tension between those wanting to continue to focus on building a parish center and others who wanted to comply with the directive to support the campaign.

"As a member of the parish council, I sensed the conflict and saw the effect it was having on the community," said Tom. "I wondered if there was a way to support both programs. Following the teaching, "to whom much is given, much is expected", Linda, our children and I discussed donating our stock proceeds to the OSM parish center project. This would allow construction to proceed with the parish concentrating on supporting the campaign."

Tom and Linda presented their plan to OSM's pastor and the archdiocese, and both were very supportive. As a result, the center was built on the site of the old school building and was dedicated on May 6, 2016. Following this, Tom and Linda pledged their support and financial assistance to the campaign, splitting their contribution between OSM and OLW.

"We are a product of Catholic education and valued our experience," said Tom. "At OSM, we became involved with the parish and the school, and when we were presented with an opportunity to give back, our family took steps to enhance the students' experience."

By pledging and honoring their commitment, The Petermanns validated their support for the campaign, which allows others to receive the benefits of a Catholic education and faith.

Tax Credit Scholarship Feature: Rodriguez Family

Claudia Rocha has lived in Cicero her entire life and is now raising her four children in the same town she grew up in. Her oldest children, Abigail (sixth grade), Alexander (fourth grade) and Anabel (second grade) all attend Our Lady of Charity and have since pre-k or kindergarten. Witnessing her children thrive academically and spiritually through Catholic school has been a blessing that would not be possible without the assistance her family received through the Tax Credit Scholarship.



"The level of education they've received at Our Lady of Charity is extremely impressive," says Claudia. "They are more advanced when compared to their peers in public schools and the things they are learning in class and religious courses are setting a fundamental foundation for them. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity the Tax Credit Scholarship has given my family and I pray our kids can continue to be enrolled at the school for years to come."

The Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program is supported by the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign and is an initiative that benefits students from families with limited financial resources who are eligible to receive a tax credit scholarship. Contributions towards this fund are even more important during this time, as unemployment numbers related to COVID-19 will result in even more demand for scholarships and assistance with tuition.

COVID-19 Update: Support Your Parish and the COVID-19 Relief Fund

Please visit archchicago.org/support to support parish offertory, the COVID-19 Relief Fund or both as your means allow. Your generosity is needed now more than ever.

Thank you for your support.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$425,296,695*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 122%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$255,781,311

Percent Paid to Date: 73%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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