

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

Archdiocese Receives Relic of St. Padre Pio

The archdiocese was recently given a relic of St. Padre Pio. St. Padre Pio was a stigmatist and bore the marks of Christ's crucifixion in his hands and feet. His wounds at the time, and even today, would baffle medical professionals as they were perfectly round, smelled like roses, and did not show any signs of infection for 50 years. As with all miracles, the Vatican did investigate and confirmed that the wounds were authentic.

As Catholics, relics are an important connection to God's divine will. Each relic is part of the physical remains of a saint or their personal effects. Every Catholic church has a relic of some sort, usually honoring the saint for they are named after.

The relic arrived at O'Hare Airport on Saturday, July 18, was hand-carried to us by a priest from the Vatican, and welcomed by a group of Capuchin priests. Upon arrival at St. Padre Pio Parish (formerly St. Hilary and Transfiguration of Our Lord), a beautiful mass was held where the Capuchin Vicar presented the relic to the parish, the archdiocese, Bishop Bartosic and Fr. Funtla.



Century-old Parish Repairs Church and School with Campaign Funds

Saint Agnes Parish, located at 1501 Chicago Road, has been an important and vibrant part of Chicago Heights for over 120 years. As a part of the parish, Saint Agnes Catholic School has been providing quality, faith-based education to families in Chicago Heights and the surrounding communities, and recently welcomed students safely back to school this fall.



Saint Agnes Parish used funds to purchase a new boiler last fall, replace the roof and remodel the church with new paint, trim and carpeting.

“Our generous and thoughtful parishioners have always done their best to support the needs of our church and its building, and when we became involved with the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign, it was no different”, said Fr. John Siemianowski. “They all responded to learning about the campaign very well and welcomed the campaign committee when we launched.”

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Saint Agnes' parishioners continue to fulfill their pledges and have already helped the church reach 74 percent of their campaign goal of \$656,000. Due to their generosity, Saint Agnes was able to install a new boiler last fall, replace the roof and remodel the church with new paint, trim and carpeting.

"Because our school and church operate in one building, and our facilities are over a century old, it's essential to keep everything maintained and we are so grateful we've been able to do so through the campaign," said Fr. John. "We were even able to replace our old faithful boiler I nicknamed 'the locomotive!'"

Keeping the parish in good condition not only keeps the building functional, but it allows the parish to continue with outreach and evangelization programs and provide resources to the Chicago Heights community.

To learn more about St. Agnes Parish, please visit saintagnes.us.

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.

Oak Park Parish Gives Thanks to Parishioners and Campaign During the Pandemic

St. Catherine of Siena St. Lucy Parish, located at 38 North Austin Boulevard in Oak Park, has been in existence since 1889. The church's vision statement states that the parish is a multi-cultural, inclusive community which assembles to worship and mirror Christ by accepting all into their family. The parish is unified through their belief in the sacredness of all creation, faith, and Catholic perspective.



St. Catherine of Siena Parish was founded in 1889, and was the first Catholic parish established in Oak Park.

"Our parishioners are extremely diverse, come from various backgrounds and live completely different lives, but they all come together to worship and call St. Catherine of Siena St. Lucy their second home," said Fr. George Omwando, priest at St. Catherine of Siena St. Lucy. "I've been so happy to witness this every week."

The parish became involved with the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign and shortly after had several meetings internally to develop a strategic plan for the campaign.

"To meet our goals, I organized meetings with many of the groups within our parish, including the fundraising committee, the finance council, parish staff, liturgy and pastoral council," said Fr. George. "The campaign message was well received and much credit goes to the expertise of the team working with us from the archdiocese."

The parish's goal was to tuckpoint the church, repair stained-glass windows and possibly replace the air conditioner. In 2017, the parish was able to replace their air conditioner after it stopped working and were also able to repair a section of the windows. "We planned to move forward with tuckpointing the church, but when the pandemic started, we decided to put that on hold," said Fr. George. "During this tough time, the generosity that has poured out from this campaign has allowed us to continue operating and be a resource to our community."

To learn more about St. Catherine of Siena St. Lucy Parish, please visit stcatherinestlucy.org.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$425,090,473*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$260,382,517

Percent Paid to Date: 74%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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