



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

July 2021

A Friendly Reminder to Fulfill Your Pledge

All donors are given the option of fulfilling their pledges with monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments. The Archdiocese of Chicago continues to process all gifts, and provide an acknowledgment letter articulating the identified schedule for payment reminders. These payment reminders should be sent directly to donors according to the identified schedule. If you have not received a gift acknowledgment in a timely manner, please contact the campaign office at 312.534.8500.

A reminder that payments on pledges should not be made to the parish or included in the parish offertory basket. The Archdiocese of Chicago will facilitate this process to ensure parishes are not burdened with the task of auditing payments during the five-year pledge period.

To manage your pledge, please visit giving.archchicago.org/ttwci/manage-your-pledge.



A Look Back: Archdiocese of Chicago Parishes Involved in the Campaign

The *To Teach Who Christ Is* newsletter has been covering its impact with donors since May 2014. The newsletter has evolved throughout the years, but one constant has been our parishes being ever-so eager to share their stories and experiences. In this edition of the newsletter, we're taking a trip down memory lane and revisiting some of the beloved parishes of the campaign.

St. Paul of the Cross Parish



In July 2017, we connected with St. Paul of the Cross, a parish serving Catholics in Park Ridge for more than 100 years. At the time, St. Paul of the Cross exceeded its *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign goal of \$2.4 million and reached a pledge total of nearly \$4 million. As a result of campaign funds, the parish was able to paint the upper church (something that had not been maintained for 30 years), renovate the lower church and build a playground for the more than 2,000 children who are members of the parish. In addition, there's now an accessible bathroom in the upper church, improved security on campus and a new phone system. The parish planned to use additional funding to install an elevator in the Kinane Center, which houses the perpetual adoration chapel frequently used by seniors and others, as well as renovate the church bathrooms.

Continued on back



"Without the push from the archdiocese and the funds of the campaign, we would not have completed these projects," said Father Britto Berchmans, priest at St. Paul of the Cross. "We are extremely grateful to be a part of the bigger Church and are humbled that our contribution will benefit other communities within the archdiocese."

Our Lady of the Wayside Parish

One of the first churches we featured, Our Lady of the Wayside, is a parish who focused its efforts and campaign funding on Catholic education. Ed Murnane, co-chair of Our Lady of the Wayside's campaign, had some very thoughtful remarks about what the campaign meant to him.

"As a life-long resident of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and a product of archdiocesan schools, *To Teach Who Christ Is* offers a chance to give back to the archdiocese while helping my own parish at the same time," said Ed. "Our needs at Our Lady of the Wayside may be different from those of other parishes, but this campaign allows all of us to work together to support the church in general, and our parish in particular."

Divine Savior Parish

In 2018, Divine Savior Parish's original campaign goal, \$515,000 with a stretch goal of \$790,000, was exceeded, raising \$873,000 in actual monies and pledged gifts. The parish accomplished a number of capital improvements to renovate their facilities and spiritual home both inside and outside their buildings.

"The campaign has been such a blessing to us," said Fr. Rich LoBianco, pastor at Divine Savior. "It's a novel concept, allowing parishes to develop their own case statements for their pragmatic present needs, while simultaneously supporting the wider goals of the archdiocese. At my suggestion to the finance board and

parish leadership team, we agreed to go for a stretch goal, allowing us to embrace a larger scope of work in phases, tackling one goal at a time. Our parishioners are savers, yet they are remarkably generous and respond to concrete needs, and I just knew that with the careful explanation of our plan and rationale, and some continuing formation on our obligations to the wider archdiocese's mission needs, we would be successful."

St. Kevin Parish (now known as Our Lady of Nazareth Parish) and Saint Anne Parish

The campaign has blessed many parishes through funding, but it has also brought many parishes together and given parish staff the opportunity to connect with parishioners one-on-one. Two of the parishes featured in 2018 had many praises because of this aspect of the campaign.

"*To Teach Who Christ Is* has had a strong impact on our community's spirit," said Fr. Pedro, pastor of St. Kevin Parish. "The ability to have one-on-one time with so many parishioners was truly meaningful, as it reenergized and strengthened our community and tied us to one another."



"I truly believe that the campaign energized our parish family," said Reverend Ralph Zwirin, pastor at Saint Anne Parish. "In addition to raising the funds needed for the projects, it inspired parishioners and volunteers to share their talents with our parish. Not only did the campaign renew our worship space, it renewed our parish family."

We are forever grateful our parishes have had such a positive experience with the campaign, and pray that *To Teach Who Christ Is* continues to impact generations to come.

We're always looking for new parishes to be featured in our newsletter. If you'd like to recommend a parish, please reach out to Patrick Lynch at plynch@archchicago.org.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$409,469,160*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 117%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$273,033,880

Percent Paid to Date: 78%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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