



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

May 2021

Celebrating Catholic Education

On May 12, the Stewardship and Development Office of the Archdiocese of Chicago hosted a virtual video premiere to celebrate Catholic Education. The video takes the place of the annual Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast, an in-person event normally scheduled at the beginning of the year. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit emergency tuition assistance and academic innovation.

Emergency tuition assistance provides scholarships to economically challenged students, enabling them to continue their pursuit of academic excellence through Catholic education. Academic innovation includes updated classroom technology and equipment, dual-language immersion, and resources to serve students with defined learning needs.

To view the video, please visit the Archdiocese of Chicago's YouTube channel. For more information, please contact Krista Giuffi, director of donor engagement at kgiuffi@archchicago.org.

**CELEBRATING
CATHOLIC
EDUCATION**



St. Christopher School Students and Siblings Receive Phoenix Scholarship and Receive Quality Care at School



Pictured above is the Canchola Family. Daughters, Mia and Bella, are both Phoenix Scholarship recipients.

The Cancholas are a warm, loving and caring family who have dealt with a lot this past year after transitioning from a two to one-income household when the COVID-19 pandemic began. It's during this tough time they've been especially grateful for the Phoenix Scholarship. Both Danny and Maria's children, Mia and Bella, are Phoenix Scholarship recipients and attend St. Christopher School, located at 14611 South Keeler in Midlothian.

"Mia's experience at St. Christopher School has been very helpful," said Maria. "Mia has a hearing problem and wears a hearing aid, and the school is very mindful of this and gives her the extra time she

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needs throughout the year. She has been doing very well in her classes and her teachers go above and beyond to take care of her. Bella's experience has also been very positive at St. Christopher School. She loves her teachers, plays well with others and has been learning a lot. She is doing very well in her classes."

Like many other families, the Cancholas were made aware of the scholarship through the school and noted that staff at St. Christopher School was very helpful with the application process. Both Danny and Maria had a desire to enroll their children in Catholic School and have noticed the positive impact it has had.

"After being enrolled at St. Christopher School, we've noticed both of our children have learned what it means to be polite, well-mannered, and the importance of being kind to others," said Maria. "We want the best for our children, and their education is a top priority. I am so grateful for the Phoenix Scholarship and how much it has helped us in sending our kids to Catholic school. We wouldn't be able to enroll them without the scholarship."

To learn more about St. Christopher School, please visit stchrisschool.org.



St. Benedict Parish of Blue Island Transitioning Through Renew My Church and Continuing with TTWCI Campaign

St. Benedict Parish, located at 2339 York Street in Blue Island, is committed to carrying out the great commission that Jesus gave to his apostles. The parish was established in 1861 to serve German immigrants.

"Blue Island is a diverse ethnic and economic area with well-established European and Mexican families," said Monsignor Dennis Lyle, priest at St. Benedict Parish. "The area has also been home to a large African American community, especially in Robbins where the St. Peter Claver Mission was established in the late 1950s."

While Monsignor Lyle was not the priest when the parish initiated their *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign efforts, he has played an important role in carrying on with the campaign and continuing to connect with parishioners on the parish's goals and plans. To date, parishioners have contributed \$304,000 of the \$340,000 desired goal set by the archdiocese.

"We just completed one project with the funds our parishioners have graciously donated," said Monsignor Lyle. "We installed a lift in the church that makes the lower hall accessible to people with disabilities and anyone using a wheelchair. This was something that was very important to our parishioners and had been a point of discussion for many years. The pandemic has restricted parish events and we have not utilized it to the extent that we anticipated, but once the restrictions are lifted, we know it will be an asset to our community."

While the pandemic has affected the parish's Sunday collections, parishioners have continued to commit to their contributions to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign. The parish is currently discerning how they will use additional funds. The archdiocese recently announced that St. Benedict, St. Walter and St. Peter Claver Mission will form a new parish through Renew My Church, and because of this, Monsignor Lyle and his staff have begun to look into both interior and exterior renovation options.

To learn more about St. Benedict Parish, please visit stbenbi.org/parish-home.



Pictured above is new lift St. Benedict installed with funds from the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$423,715,183*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$270,643,886

Percent Paid to Date: 77%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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