



**Congratulations to Cristo Rey Parish and Fr. Fred Thelen as they have surpassed their goal. We are happy to have another Winter Wave parish over the top. We congratulate Fr. Fred, his leadership team and his generous parishioners for their hard work and steadfast support of Witness to Hope.**

**Witness to Hope continues to make excellent progress. We should start to see a surge in gifts as many parishes have begun solicitation of their parishioners through pastor one on one visits and parish gatherings. And finally...**

**Congratulations to Bishop Boyea on his 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination from the Campaign Team. Ad Multos Annos!**

**Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director**

## **Parish News**

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*"I must be willing to give whatever it takes to do good to others. This requires that I be willing to give until it hurts. Otherwise, there is no true love in me, and I bring injustice, not peace, to those around me"*

*St. Mother Teresa*

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### **Cristo Rey, Lansing**

#### **Fr. Fred Thelen**

With over 30% parish participation, Cristo Rey has *gone over goal* with \$403,565 in pledges!! Additional pledges continue to come in. Thanks to a great Campaign Cabinet, staff and extraordinary pastor, congratulations Fr. Fred Thelen!

### **Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint**

#### **Fr. Paul Donnelly**

Our Lady of Guadalupe continues their work with Witness To Hope. A renewed spirit is in the parish and the Witness To Hope Campaign.

## **St. Casimir, Lansing**

### **Fr. Bill Lugger**

A presentation was made at St. Casimir Finance Council meeting with guests in attendance to learn more about Witness To Hope. There was great interest and discussion on the campaign, the option of IRA distribution and the importance of continued support in both the parish offertory and the DSA.

## **Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing**

### **Fr. John Byers**

The Campaign Cabinet is in place and meeting this week. The brochure is being reviewed and almost ready for print! Bulletin inserts are in place and Fr. John is ready for Announcement Weekend is this coming weekend.

The ALPHA program has launched and we will be formally announcing the Witness To Hope campaign at **Christ the King Parish** in Ann Arbor on the weekend of September 23/24. **Fr. Ed Fride** will be reaching out to parish families to invite their participation in the combined campaign, which will allow Christ the King to complete projects to enhance parish life and to serve many of the extraordinary programs currently underway.

**Fr. Tim McDonald** has begun to schedule personal campaign visits that will begin next week, while simultaneously completing the case brochure. He is putting together a team of leaders and our timeline has been set. Along with his staff, Fr. Tim has completed a thorough review of the database as well.

In addition to initiating the parish engagement phase at **Old St. Patrick Parish** in Ann Arbor we also met with the Parish Council on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Although it was a Friday night, and not a typical meeting day, the group was most enthusiastic, with great questions and a sincere interest in helping both the parish and Diocese successfully execute the WTH campaign. Like every parish, there are challenges, but there is also a great spirit of cooperation from **Fr. Tom Wasilewski** and his leadership team.

After making his remarkable *decision of faith / best sacrifice gift* to the campaign, **Fr. Tom Firestone** at the **Catholic Community of Flint** is reaching out to parish leaders for conversations about *Witness to Hope* and early decisions of faith. Parish share funds will further build up parish life through Evangelization, Education and Charitable Outreach especially at the St. Luke N.E.W Life Center where lives are saved and lives are changed daily.

**Fr. Philip Schmitter** at **Christ the King in Flint** is inviting his co chairs and parish leaders in for conversations about *Witness to Hope*. He will invite all to consider early gift decisions to drive campaign momentum. **Fr. Phil** continues to clearly communicate the spirituality of sacrificial giving. Parish share funds will drive outreach and evangelization to empower the poor and share the Catholic faith in Flint.

**Fr. Robert Copeland and Fr. Todd Koenigs knecht** at **St. John the Evangelist, Fenton** will meet with parish leaders immediately following the '17 Apple Fest for conversations about *Witness to Hope* and their gift to the parish and wider church. Parish share funds will reduce Debt, upgrade Facilities and make needed improvements to the historic stone Chapel.

**Fr. James Mangan** at **St. Matthew, Flint** will meet with several motivated and capable cabinet co chair candidates soon. Parish share funds will enhance Evangelization, Education and Charitable Outreach at **St. Matthew** as a witness to the Catholic faith in downtown Flint.

**Fr. James Conlon, St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor** kicked off the parish's \$8 million combined campaign last weekend with a special homily at all six Masses. The parish share of \$6.3 million will fund the new 15,000 sq. ft. Ministry Center, to be built adjacent to the Church. The Building Committee provided Father four beautiful architectural drawings of the Center. These were on display in the narthex and also at the annual parish picnic held on Sunday afternoon and have been posted to the website. The drawings created a lot of excitement and many positive comments - parishioners were thrilled to see what their pledges will be supporting. The first campaign reception will be held on Tuesday morning September 19<sup>th</sup> for the "55 and Faster" senior ministry group.

**St. Mary, Morrice** just concluded their annual parish festival. **James Lothamer PSS** is continuing to appeal to the parish leadership to consider a final contribution in support to *Witness to Hope*. Fr. Jim will be announcing The Campaign publically at Mass in the next two weeks.

**St. Mary, Durand** and **St. Joseph, Gaines** will be hosting Bishop Boyea to present on *Witness to Hope* on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. **Fr. Jonathan Perrotta** has publically invited parishioners to attend this meeting at St. Mary for families to listen and learn about The Campaign. Families continue to prayerfully consider their support as enthusiasm builds in the parish.

**Fr. Dwight Ezop** at **Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue** continues to call upon the parish leadership to assist in the campaign process. Families are making generous contributions to support the campaign as the message continues to be shared.

**Fr. Francis George** at **St. John the Baptist, Howell** is reaching out to key community leaders to present elements of the *Witness to Hope* campaign at the parish. Invitations have been sent in the mail requesting attendance to one of the various small group receptions. Parishioners are responding with enthusiasm as they call the parish to attend the informational receptions.

#### **St. Joseph – Howell**

**Fr. Dave** is continuing his leadership and closing in on completing all calls. In the mean time the cabinet held announcement weekend this past week, and is now busy preparing for the upcoming in-home and parish receptions. St. Joseph Parish is currently at \$156,630

#### **St. Joseph – Dexter**

**Fr. Brendan** and team hosted their third leadership reception and are busy preparing for their announcement weekend this weekend. The cabinet will host it's first small group gathering this coming Saturday. **Fr. Brendan** is almost done with all remaining leadership calls. The parish has currently received \$907,625 in pledges.

#### **St. Mary – Williamston**

**Fr. Mark** hosted the parish/finance councils this week for a campaign orientation. The cabinet has been recruited and will hold their second meeting next week. **Father and Deacon Steve** will have announcement weekend in two weeks and are looking forward to kicking off the campaign. They are currently at \$36,000.

**St. Mary, Pinckney – Fr. Dan Kogut** continues to meet with parishioners and will be doing follow up phone calls to close on some lead gifts. The parish is preparing for an all-in ministry meeting as well as a couple of in home receptions.

**Sacred Heart, Hudson – Fr. Joe Krupp** continues to promote the campaign. Pledges are still coming in from his leadership meetings as well as from the parish gathering. Plans have been made for while he is away.

**St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – Fr. Bob Roggenbuck** is still scheduling leadership meetings. A second cabinet meeting will be held soon to discuss future events for the campaign at the parish.

**St. Mary of Good Counsel, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS** had a leadership meeting this week and more are being scheduled. Smaller gatherings are also being planned. Brochure is being created.

**St. Joseph, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS** will be making himself as available as possible for the events at St. Joseph. **Deacon Leonard Brown** continues to meet with parishioners to ask for their support of the campaign. There will be another cabinet meeting to continue discussion of the campaign plan going forward.

**St. Elizabeth, Tecumseh, Michigan (Fr. Dan Wheeler)**

Planning for the Witness to Hope Campaign at the parish continues. The campaign team is waiting on the first proof of all materials that have been sent off to draft their campaign brochure and other marketing materials. Fr. Dan is preparing to meet with possible members of the parish to help lead the campaign and he along with the Greater Mission team within the next week or so.

**St. Andrew, Saline, Michigan (Fr. Francis Mossholder)**

Planning for the Witness to Hope Campaign at the parish continues. The campaign team is waiting on the first proof of all materials that have been sent off to draft their campaign brochure and other marketing materials. Fr. Francis is preparing to meet with possible members of the parish to help lead the campaign and he along with the Greater Mission team this week.

**St. Mary Star of The Sea, in Jackson** is a generous and faith filled parish composed of three communities; St. Stanislaus Kostka, and the Community of Sacred Heart.

**Fr. Timothy Nelson** has picked his campaign cabinet and continues to move ahead with the next steps in the campaign.

**St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti** is a beautiful intimate community of faith filled parishioners. **Fr. Pieter Van Rooyen and Deacon Stan Kukla** have completed and submitted the case form and pictures. Working hard towards moving ahead with the next steps in the campaign.

**St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing** hosted the all in ministry meeting last week with over 100 attendees. **Fr. Mark** and the additional clergy are beginning to meet with parishioners. We are also in the process of recruiting home gathering hosts.

**St. Therese, Lansing** will host the all in ministry meeting and first cabinet meeting next week. **Fr. John** is continuing to schedule leadership visits and close gifts. We are working on the invitation lists for our two home gathering hosts.

**St. Catherine Laboure, Concord** held the all in ministry meeting and cabinet meeting earlier this week. **Bishop Boyea** will attend the parish gathering on Wednesday (9/20). **Fr. Tim** is working to schedule more leadership visits. The parish has raised \$116,900, which is 29% of the goal.

**Fr. Anthony Strouse** announced the campaign last weekend at **St. Pius X** with great commitment and prayer. Campaign cabinet members were commissioned with prayer. Total pledges from 10 parishioners is \$83,500. Receptions and gatherings are scheduled for the upcoming weeks as the entire parish is invited to prayer about their best sacrificial gift.

**Fr. Ken Coughlin** will announce the campaign at **St. Francis Xavier, Otisville** this weekend with receptions following each Mass.

**Fr. Ken Coughlin** will announce the campaign at **SS. Charles and Helena, Clio** next weekend with a multitude of receptions and gatherings scheduled during September and October. **Fr. Ken** received the first leadership gift of \$20,000 this week. Praise and thanksgiving for a successful campaign.

**The Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton** and **Fr. Andrew** and **Fr. Bob** will be hosting the first of three leadership receptions and gatherings next weekend. The campaign cabinet met again this week and finalized the campaign calendar.

The campaigns at **St. Isidore, Laingsburg**, and **Holy Family, Ovid**, are moving along well. **Fr. Duaine Pamment** and Dcn. John are meeting with donors and asking for their prayerful consideration of their best sacrificial gift. Campaign cabinets at both St. Isidore and Holy Family have met and will be planning the campaign gatherings soon.