



The Witness to Hope Team was happy to see Bishop Boyea back to work this week after his surgery. His vision, leadership and energy have been a key factor in our progress to date, as has been the amazing leadership of the pastors of the diocese. We are truly grateful to these great men whose commitment to the campaign has been inspiring!

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

*“When God blesses you financially, don’t raise your standard of living,
raise your standard of giving.”*

Mark Batterson

Fr. Tom Firestone at the **Catholic Community of Flint** introduced the campaign to forty plus ministry leads at the parish commission on Monday evening. 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 definitely leading by example and has made his very best sacrifice gift to *Witness to Hope*. **Fr. Phil** continues to clearly communicate the spirituality of sacrificial giving to his campaign cabinet co chairs. 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 Koenigsknecht at **St. John the Evangelist, Fenton** are looking forward to meeting with parish leaders soon 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** continues to reach out to campaign cabinet co chair candidates for the *Witness to Hope* campaign. Parish share funds will enhance Evangelization, Education and Charitable Outreach at **St. Matthew** as a witness to the Catholic faith in downtown Flint.

Cristo Rey, Lansing

Fr. Fred Thelen

Announcements and brief witness talks will take place at all liturgies at Cristo Rey Church this weekend. Determined to get past the finish line, they are at 98% of their goal, \$392,220 -- -- lacking only \$7,880!

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint

Fr. Paul Donnelly and the Campaign Cabinet met this week with a renewed Witness To Hope enthusiasm as summer is coming to a close. New members are on the Cabinet and pledges continue to come in.

St. Casimir, Lansing

Photos and all other elements for the campaign brochure are submitted. Preparation is underway for presentations to the Parish and Finance Councils in September.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing

Leadership engagement meetings continue at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. A presentation to the Finance and Pastoral Councils took place this week. The case is set, and brochure prep is in final stages. Excitement continues to build as parishioners are hearing that plans for gym construction are solid.

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

Fr. Dan and key staff members put the finishing touches on the campaign calendar and are preparing to finalize all campaign materials over the next few weeks. Fr. Dan will be meeting with a group of parishioners in the next few weeks to finalize the campaign leadership team that will assist in the running of the campaign.

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

Fr. Francis and key staff members put the finishing touches on the campaign calendar and are preparing to finalize all campaign materials over the next few weeks. Fr. Francis will be meeting with a group of parishioners in the next few weeks to finalize the campaign leadership team that will assist in the running of the campaign.

About 100 parishioners of **Christ the King Parish** in Ann Arbor attended Parish Info sessions on August 23 and 27th. All had very good questions and expressed great support of the case elements for both parish and Diocese. The campaign cabinet is working in preparation for a September campaign announcement and reviewing the list of parishioners who will meet personally, beginning after Labor Day, with pastor, **Fr. Ed Fride**.

Fr. Tim MacDonald is nominating and inviting campaign leaders for **Our Lady of Fatima** in Michigan Center. We will be meeting on September 5th to review our calendar and ratings.

We are conducting preparation and engagement phase work at **St. Patrick Parish** in Ann Arbor with **Fr. Tom Wasilewski** and we will be meeting with the parish council on September 7th to review the campaign plan and timeline. The case elements have been approved so we will be finishing the work on the parish brochure

St. Joseph – Howell

Fr. Dave is off on retreat until next week. In the mean time the cabinet is busy preparing for the upcoming receptions and All in Ministry meeting. **Fr. Dave** has begun leadership calls and gifts are beginning to come in. They are currently at \$143,630

St. Joseph – Dexter

Fr. Brendan and team hosted their second cabinet meeting and held their first leadership reception with over 25 families in attendance. Their announcement weekend is September 16/17. **Fr. Brendan** has begun leadership calls and is off to a great start. They are currently at \$532,240.

St. Mary – Williamston

Fr. Mark has approved the parish Case and is in the process of completing the parish brochure. **Father and Deacon Steve** are in the process of recruiting the cabinet and are busy planning the first meeting of the Cabinet and a information session for both Councils.

Fr James Lothamer, PSS at St. Mary, Morrice met with the campaign cabinet this past weekend to discuss *Witness to Hope*. The cabinet has taken leadership in hosting a variety of small receptions at the parish rectory. Father Lothamer continues to meet with families individually to request leadership participation.

Fr. Jonathan Perrotta at St. Mary, Durand and St. Joseph, Gaines has reached out to key families that are committed to assisting the success of the campaign. Many families are at home praying about their contribution to *Witness to Hope* and will be making decisions in the near future.

Fr. Dwight Ezop at Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue has begun to meet with families who could consider a gift in a leadership level. The *Witness to Hope* campaign cabinet met early this week to set a vision for the campaign. At the cabinet meeting, strategies were set in place to best accommodate the message for the parish community.

Fr. Francis George at St. John the Baptist, Howell has begun to educate key parishioners about the *Witness to Hope* campaign. A number of small receptions will be hosted at the parish. Guest speakers are being recruited to present in September and October on a variety of elements that the campaign financially supports.

St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing had a successful announcement weekend. **Fr. Mark** has begun individual meetings with parishioners. The parish will host the all in ministry meeting and first cabinet meeting next week. The campaign materials have been sent to print.

St. Therese, Lansing has send its materials to print. **Fr. John** has begun leadership visits. He has already met with the top prospect. The campaign materials have been sent to print.

St. Catherine Laboure, Concord has raised \$70,900 which is 18% of the goal. **Fr. Tim** did a wonderful job with individual meetings and is eager to meet with more parishioners.

Fr. James Conlon, St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor is kicking off the parish's \$8 million combined campaign at all Masses on the weekend of September 9th and 10th. Early gifts include a \$50,000 gift of stock and a \$5,000 pledge from an employee who shared this sentiment with Father: *"Thank you for giving my family this opportunity to contribute. Giving us five years to donate makes something more significant doable for us. You have our sincerest gratitude."*

St. Mary, Pinckney – Fr. Dan Kogut has completed 20 leadership meetings so far. Meetings are still being scheduled for the following weeks and pledges are starting to come in. A cabinet meeting will be held soon and in-home receptions are being scheduled.

Sacred Heart, Hudson – Fr. Joe Krupp has now met with 21 families. Parishioners have been very receptive to the campaign. Announcement weekend will be this weekend and an evening reception is being planned for this week to go over the campaign and to seek advice on the new flooring that will be a result of the campaign share.

St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – Fr. Bob Roggenbuck has completed 8 leadership meetings so far. We are still scheduling more for the coming weeks. Parish gatherings are starting to be planned.

St. Mary of Good Counsel, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS has sent out invitations to people for leadership meetings. He has made himself available for several days over the next few weeks for the meetings. We continue moving forward with the campaign plan and timeline.

St. Joseph, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS will be making himself as available as possible for the events at St. Joseph. **Deacon Leonard Brown** had his first two leadership meetings this week and he has several more scheduled in the coming weeks.

St. Mary Star of The Sea, in Jackson a beautiful parish composed of three communities; St. Stanislaus Kostka, and the Community of Sacred Heart. **Fr. Timothy Nelson** was thrilled to have the finance council approve the parish case and continue to move forward with the campaign. Everyone continues to work hard for the success of the campaign.

St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti a beautiful and prayerful community. **Fr. Pieter Van Rooyen and Deacon Stan Kukla** are excited to have finalized the parish data. Everyone is continuing to work towards a successful campaign.

Fr. Anthony Strouse, KHS is actively scheduling and meeting with parish leaders and asking for their best sacrificial gift. The campaign brochure materials for **St. Pius X, Flint**, are approved and with the printer. The campaign cabinet will meet next Monday and prepare for the Announcement Weekend, September 9th and 10th.

Fr. Ken Coughlin at **SS. Charles and Helena, Clio** and **St. Francis Xavier, Otisville** meet with parish leaders this week and has set aside several days in September for leadership meetings. Announcement weekend at St. Francis Xavier is September 16 and 17th. Announcement Weekend at SS Charles and Helena is September 23rd and 24th.

The Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton campaign organization continued while **Fr. Andrew Czajkowski** conducted a pilgrimage to Poland. Fr. Andy returned this week and held his first campaign cabinet meeting on Wednesday, August 30th.

The campaigns at **St. Isidore, Laingsburg**, and **Holy Family, Ovid**, are moving along well. **Fr. Duaine Pamment** sent out invitations to select parishioners inviting them to join the campaign cabinet. Fr. Pamment has approved the campaign brochures and the ratings have been completed.