



The parishes in this final wave are off to a strong start, with many kicking-off their campaigns this weekend. We remain grateful to the parishioners who continue to volunteer as Prayer Champions, Reception Hosts and Campaign Advocates.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

"Fundraising is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission...We are drawn together by God, who is about to do a new thing through our collaboration."

Father Henri Nouwen

Parish News

St. Joseph – Howell

Fr. Dave is back from retreat and has started follow up and leadership calls once more. In the meantime the cabinet is busy preparing for the upcoming receptions and announcement weekend. They are currently at \$146,630.

St. Joseph – Dexter

Fr. Brendan and team hosted their second leadership reception Their announcement weekend is next weekend and the cabinet is busy planning for the remaining gatherings. **Fr. Brendan** has begun leadership calls and is off to a great start. They are currently at \$715,169.

St. Mary – Williamston

Fr. Mark is busy recruiting the campaign cabinet and will host a parish/finance orientation 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 had 6 leadership meetings this week. The first cabinet meeting was held to discuss the campaign and future events. Pledges from the initial leadership meetings are slowly coming in.

Sacred Heart, Hudson – Fr. Joe Krupp hosted a parish gathering this week to present the campaign to his parishioners. The meetings also included a presentation on the possible options for flooring which the parish funds will be going towards. Pledges are starting to come in from the initial leadership meetings.

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 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** continues to meet with parishioners to ask for their support of the campaign. A second cabinet meeting was held to discuss future events for the campaign at the parish. Pledges are starting to come in from initial leadership meetings.

St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor held their All-In Ministry meeting this past Thursday night and **Fr. James Conlon** reports that over 225 volunteers were in attendance. Many signed up to be Prayer Champions, Hospitality Volunteers and Campaign Advocates.

Fr. Anthony Strouse's leadership meetings continue to bless the results at **St. Pius X, Flint**. Six leadership pledges total \$71,500. The first of two All Ministry meetings was held on Wednesday with 18 parishioners who attended and learned more about the campaign. Announcement Weekend is September 9th and 10th.

Fr. Ken Coughlin at **SS. Charles and Helena, Clio** and **St. Francis Xavier, Otisville** continues to meet with parishioners and is enthusiastically requesting prayerful consideration of "best sacrificial" giving. The campaign was introduced to the Finance Council on Wednesday night. The 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 continues with **Fr. Andy** reviewing parish data and the brochure draft.

The campaigns at **St. Isidore, Laingsburg**, and **Holy Family, Ovid**, are moving along well. **Fr. Duaine Pamment** introduced the campaign to the Pastoral Council at St. Isidore on Tuesday evening. Fr. Pamment is meeting with lead gift parishioners over the next two weeks.

Fr. Tom Firestone at the **Catholic Community of Flint** continues to reach out to cabinet co-chairs and parish leaders. 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.

After making his remarkable decision of faith/best sacrifice gift to the campaign, **Fr. Philip Schmitter** at **Christ the King in Flint** is inviting his co-chairs to make early gift decisions too! **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 Koenigsknecht** at **St. John the Evangelist, Fenton** will meet with parish leaders after 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** has been reaching out to several motivated and capable cabinet co-chair candidates to sit on the campaign cabinet 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.

Fr James Lothamer PSS at **St. Mary, Morrice** is meeting with families to discuss their participation in support of the *Witness to Hope* campaign. The annual parish festival will be taking place during the weekend of September 8th – 10th to build up fellowship among the church family.

Fr. Jonathan Perrotta at **St. Mary, Durand** and **St. Joseph, Gaines** is presenting to ministries at both worship locations to educate parishioners in the campaign. Much

excitement builds within the parish about *Witness to Hope* due to Father Perrotta's enthusiasm and efforts to call up to support the campaign.

Fr. Dwight Ezop at **Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue** continues to meet with families individually to discuss their gift. The parish staff is reaching out to the various ministries in the parish to attend the All-In Ministry meeting next Wednesday, September 13th.

St. John the Baptist, Howell is preparing for small group gatherings to be taking place September through November. Each gathering will have a guest speaker attend to discuss the projects that the *Witness to Hope* campaign will fund. **Fr. Francis George** is reaching out to families to attend the smaller receptions to encourage attendance for the receptions.

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 focused the parish share on building the educational endowment fund for the children of the three communities to have a future catholic education, since Father's focus are the children. Everyone continues to work hard for the success of the campaign.

St. Joseph, Ypsilanti is 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.

Christ the King Parish in Ann Arbor initiates the ALPHA program this weekend and next so we will be announcing the campaign the weekend of September 23/24. We will begin scheduling personal visits next week and we are in the process of finishing the Parish Case brochure.

Fr. Tim MacDonald is putting together a campaign leadership team. We have also identified those that we would like to visit personally at **Our Lady of Fatima** in Michigan Center.

We are conducting preparation and engagement phase work at **Old St. Patrick Parish** in Ann Arbor with **Fr. Tom Wasilewski** and we will be meeting with the parish council on September 8th to review the campaign plan and timeline. The case elements have been approved.

St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing hosted the all in ministry meeting and first cabinet meeting. **Fr. Mark** and the additional clergy are beginning to schedule 1 on 1 meetings. We are also in the process of recruiting home gathering hosts.

St. Therese, Lansing is eager to receive additional gifts. **Fr. John** is continuing to schedule leadership visits. We have selected our two home gathering hosts.

St. Catherine Laboure, Concord will host its all in ministry meeting and cabinet meeting on Monday. **Fr. Tim** is excited that the parish has raised \$85,900 which is 21% of the goal. More leadership visits are in the process of being scheduled.

St. Elizabeth, Tecumseh, Fr. Dan Wheeler

Fr. Dan and key staff members finished outlining the campaign calendar for the Fall Witness to Hope Campaign. All materials have been sent off to draft their campaign brochure and other marketing materials. Fr. is still identifying possible members of the parish to help lead the campaign and he along with the Greater Mission team will be meeting with them next week to outline the case and plan.

St. Andrew, Saline, Fr. Francis Mossholder

Fr. Francis and key staff members finished outlining the campaign calendar for the Fall Witness to Hope Campaign. All materials have been sent off to draft their campaign brochure and other marketing materials. Fr. Francis is still identifying possible members of the parish to help lead the campaign and he along with the Greater Mission team will be meeting with them next week to outline the case and plan.

Fr. Fred Thelen, Christo Rey, Lansing is determined to get past the finish-line, they are at 98% of their goal, \$397,525 -- -- lacking only \$2,475!

Fr. Paul Donnelly and the Campaign Cabinet at **Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint** conducted a parish registration drive in addition to distributing packets for a renewed *Witness to Hope* effort. Additional receptions are being planned.

St. Casimir, Lansing has the draft of the parish campaign brochure and **Father Bill Lugger** will be presenting it at next week's parish Finance Council meeting.

At **Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing**, **Father John Byers** held his All-In Ministry meeting this past week and leadership engagement meetings continue. Parishioners are stepping forward and we are preparing for Announcement Weekend on the weekend of September 16th and 17th.

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