



We are encouraged to see so many pastors working so hard to conduct one on one meetings with parishioners to ask for their lead gift support. This personal contact is going to bear great fruit over the next few weeks.

90 days to go! Let's keep praying daily for the success of Wave 2 and Witness to Hope.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

#### Parish News

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*"Make it your practice instead to store up heavenly treasure, which neither moths nor rust corrode nor thieves break in and steal.*

*Remember, where your treasure is, there your heart is also."*

*Matthew 6:20, 21*

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**St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing** will host a parish gathering after all masses on Sunday. **Fr. Mark** and the additional clergy continue to meet with parishioners. We are also in the process of recruiting home gathering hosts.

**St. Therese, Lansing** held the all in ministry meeting with about 40 attendees and started distributing packets. **Fr. John** was pleased with the turnout and is following up with pending requests. The two home gathering visits are being planned.

**St. Catherine Laboure, Concord** held its first parish gathering with **Bishop Boyea** on Wednesday (9/20). **Fr. Tim** is working to schedule more leadership visits and follow up on pending requests. The parish has raised \$131,900 which is 33% of the goal.

At the **Catholic Community of Flint** **Fr. Tom Firestone** and staff are preparing for an All-In Ministry meeting weekend with gatherings after the Vigil Mass and 11:00 Mass on Sunday to build broad support and understanding for the campaign. 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** has met with several parish leaders 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 Koenigsknecht** at **St. John the Evangelist, Fenton** are meeting with motivated parish leaders 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.

**Christ the King Parish** in Ann Arbor formally announces the *Witness to Hope* campaign this weekend, September 23/24. **Fr. Ed Fride** will be reaching out to parish families to invite their participation in the combined campaign.

**Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center** announces the WTH campaign this weekend. **Fr. Tim Macdonald** met with the parish council this week to engage them in the leadership process while arranging to start personal visits next week

**Old St. Patrick Parish** in Ann Arbor will announce the campaign next weekend and we have completed our review of the parish roster to clean up any inaccuracies and update and now **Fr. Tom Wasilewski** is preparing for his leadership visits.

**Fr. James Lothamer PSS** at **St. Mary, Morrice** is continuing to reach out to families in leadership to invite them to make a financial contribution to the campaign. The *Witness to Hope* campaign cabinet will be meeting this weekend for the second time to plan our small group receptions held at the parish.

**St. Mary, Durand** and **St. Joseph, Gaines** held an All-In Ministry meeting on Monday evening with Bishop Boyea. Bishop spoke on the history of the campaign and highlight the great impact *Witness to Hope* will have to bring the Gospel to those who do not know Christ. To date, the parish has received \$32,500 towards their goal.

**Fr. Dwight Ezop** at **Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue** held an All-In Ministry meeting at St. Ann this week. Families that are plugged into ministries throughout the parish came and provided great discussion on the campaign elements. Many signed up as campaign advocates and volunteers to assist in the campaign process. This weekend, the parish will be three at home gatherings will be hosted for a small number of families to attend.

**Fr. Francis George** at **St. John the Baptist, Howell** is hosting an All-In Ministry presentation to families engaged in ministry. A phone-a-thon will take place later this weekend to invite families to our small group gatherings. Next week, Mark Robinson of Livingston County Catholic Charities will be presenting at our first small group gathering to discuss the direct impact that *Witness to Hope* will have on the local community.

#### **St. Joseph – Howell**

**Fr. Dave** is in the process of completing his leadership calls. The cabinet is preparing for the upcoming In-home receptions. The parish had a very successful announcement weekend. They are currently at \$169,140

#### **St. Joseph – Dexter**

**Fr. Brendan** and team have hosted their leadership receptions and have completed their announcement weekend. They have begun the next wave of receptions and the parish is moving ahead quickly. **Fr. Brendan** has just a few more leadership calls remaining. They are currently at \$1,099,595

#### **St. Mary – Williamston**

**Fr. Mark** held the second cabinet meeting this week, and they have set all of their campaign dates and recruited hosts for all of their upcoming events. **Father and Deacon Steve** will have announcement weekend this weekend and are looking forward to kicking off the campaign. They are currently at \$36,000.

**St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor** held its first campaign reception this past Tuesday for the *55 and Faster* Senior Ministry group. The event was held after the 9:15am Mass and over 50 parishioners attended. **Fr. James Conlon** explained how campaign funds would support both the Diocesan priorities and the construction of the new parish Ministry Center. John Madigan, President of the Catholic Foundation served as the guest speaker. He explained different ways for seniors to make their pledge including IRA distributions, stock transfers and other planned gifts. One 90-year old woman had made her pledge the day before the event and she spoke about how easy it was for her to go

on-line and “set everything up” through electronic funds transfer directly from her bank to the Witness to Hope fund. Fr. James reports that everyone was very positive and he has already received an extremely generous pledge from a long-time member of the *55 and Faster* group.

**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 continued to move ahead with the next steps in the campaign and submitted the final brochure materials.

**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. Will be finalizing the brochure for production.

**Fr. Anthony Strouse** at **St. Pius X** is very thankful for the 11 pledges totaling \$103,850 received from generous parishioners and is looking forward to meeting with parishioners at several upcoming receptions.

**Fr. Ken Coughlin** announced the campaign at **St. Francis Xavier, Otisville** weekend and the receptions following Mass were very well attended, over 50 families attended the reception. Fr. Ken is looking forward to meeting with several families to ask for their “best sacrificial gift.”

**Fr. Ken Coughlin** will announce the campaign at **SS. Charles and Helena, Clio** this weekend with receptions following each Mass. Four generous parishioners, including Fr. Ken have pledged \$38,800 for what will be a very successful campaign. This week the All Ministry reception was held with over 35 parishioners attended. The campaign is off to a great beginning.

**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 this weekend and next week. The brochure materials are completed and will be available soon. Announcement Weekend is October 14-15.

The campaigns at **St. Isidore, Laingsburg**, and **Holy Family, Ovid**, are moving along well. **Fr. Duaine Pamment** and Deacon John continue to meet with lead donors. Campaign cabinets at both St. Isidore and Holy Family met and set campaign gathering dates. The Knights of Columbus will host the Witness to Hope pancake breakfast in October.

**St. Mary, Pinckney – Fr. Dan Kogut** hosted an All-In Ministry Meeting on Thursday. He has also followed up with those that he did a leadership visit with who have not made a pledge yet. The parish is ready for their Announcement Weekend this weekend.

**Sacred Heart, Hudson – Fr. Joe Krupp** is away on pilgrimage for the remainder of the month. Plans have been set for while he is gone. **Deacon John Amthor** will be making an announcement after the masses this weekend with more information about the campaign. Pledges are still coming in weekly.

**St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – Fr. Bob Roggenbuck** had a very productive cabinet meeting this week. The cabinet asked lots of questions and offered great ideas. Pledges are starting to come in from the leadership meetings and more meetings have been scheduled for Monday. The parish is prepared for their Announcement Weekend this weekend.

**St. Mary of Good Counsel, Adrian – Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS** had another leadership meeting this week. Plans are being made for parish gatherings. The parish is preparing for a reception with the Bishop in a couple of weeks and will be having their Announcement Weekend this weekend.

**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 was a cabinet meeting held this week that was filled with candid advice on how to successfully move forward. The parish will be having their Announcement Weekend this weekend.

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

Planning for the Witness to Hope Campaign at the parish continues. The campaign team is reviewing the first draft of the brochure and has submitted all other preparatory

materials. Fr. Dan and the Greater Mission Campaign Director will review the Witness to Hope initiative with prospective campaign leaders next Thursday.

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

Witness to Hope Campaign efforts continue at the parish as the team prepares for the All Ministry Meeting next Tuesday. The campaign team is reviewing the first proof of the brochure and has submitted the final list of parish members. Fr. Francis met with members of the parish last week to outline the initiative and one family agreed to step up and help chair the campaign and others agreed to help in other ways.