



Kudos to the many pastors who have visited dozens of parishioners asking for their support to the Witness to Hope campaign, their leadership and dedication is what makes the difference.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

"To do more for the world than the world does for you- that is success."

Henry Ford

Christ the King Parish has secured nearly \$400,000 in campaign commitments from less than 8 donors and personal Pastor visits will start next week. The ALPHA program meetings have begun and we are working to integrate WTH as appropriate.

Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center announces the WTH campaign this weekend. **Fr. Tim MacDonald** is contacting parishioners for gift request meetings beginning October 9 after the Priest Convocation.

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 scheduling personal visits.

St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing held parish gatherings after all masses on Sunday. **Fr. Mark** and the additional clergy continue to meet with parishioners. The parish has raised \$582,191 for 14% of the goal.

St. Therese, Lansing will hold another all in ministry meeting next week. **Fr. John** is following up with pending requests. The two home gathering visits are finalized. The parish has raised \$216,300 which is 43% of goal.

St. Catherine Laboure, Concord will host a senior gathering on October 9th. **Fr. Tim** is working to schedule more leadership visits and follow up on pending requests. The parish has raised \$146,900 which is 37% of the goal.

Fr. James Lothamer PSS at **St. Mary, Morrice** met with the campaign cabinet this past weekend to prepare for next week's small group receptions. Families have been responding to the parish invitations. Leadership meetings continue for families to consider their support to *Witness to Hope*.

St. Mary, Durand and **St. Joseph, Gaines** is preparing for the commissioning ceremony of their prayer champions. **Fr. Jonathan Perrotta** is meeting with families to consider their gift to the campaign generating \$41,500 in gifts pledged.

Cabinet members at the **Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue** held two at home receptions this past weekend. The families that attended expressed their excitement for the campaign and will be prayerfully considering their gift within the next week. **Fr. Dwight Ezop** continues to appeal to families in leadership to encourage their participation to the campaign.

Fr. Francis George at **St. John the Baptist, Howell** hosted the first small group gathering at the parish hall on Tuesday night. Mark Robinson from Livingston County Catholic Charities presented on the impact *Witness to Hope* will have on the community. An information booth was available after each weekend mass for families to learn more about the campaign.

Fr. James Conlon, St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor is concentrating on his leadership gift meetings with top prospects. The parish architects provided four artists' renderings of the new Ministry Center and having the renderings in the meetings has proved to be extremely helpful. The 2nd large campaign gathering will be held this Sunday October 1. Ten Hospitality Hosts will be assisting as volunteers and a member of the Building Committee will be sharing details about the plans for the the new Center.

The parishioners at **St. Pius X** are continuing to show their support for the *Witness to Hope* campaign; 18 pledges totaling \$125,650 bring the campaign to 18% of goal. Invitations to three upcoming receptions were mailed this week. **Fr. Strouse** will be closing leadership gifts in the next few weeks.

St. Francis Xavier, Otisville will have receptions soon and provide packets to the parishioners who attended the Announcement Weekend reception. **Fr. Ken** is going strong with more leadership visits scheduled throughout October.

Fr. Ken Coughlin announced the campaign at **SS. Charles and Helena, Clio** this weekend with receptions following each Mass. Over 125 pledge prayer packets were

given to parishioners. Pledges from 9 parishioners total \$85,400. **Fr. Ken** will continue leadership meetings throughout October.

The Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton and Fr. Andrew and Fr. Bob hosted three leadership receptions this week. The response to the receptions was very positive with over 25 parishioners receiving their pledge packets. Fr. Bob will conduct leadership meetings throughout October. Announcement Weekend is October 14-15.

The campaigns at **St. Isidore, Laingsburg, and Holy Family, Ovid**, are moving along well. **Fr. Duaine Pamment** and Dcn. John have completed leadership meetings. Campaign cabinets at St. Isidore finalized plans for two gatherings and will be handing out packets after Mass throughout October in anticipation of Witness Weekend. Fr. Pamment will announce the campaign at St. Isidore and Dcn. John will announce the campaign at Holy Family the weekend of October 7th and 8th.

St. Casimir, Lansing

Fr. Bill Lugg has been promoting Witness To Hope and answering questions of parishioners. Announcement Weekend takes place this weekend and parish receptions are being planned. The parish case has been set for new steps at the entrance into the church building, as well as door replacement.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing: Fr. John Byers

Two leadership receptions were held this week for lead donors, and leadership engagement meetings continue. Artist renditions for the new gym are nearly ready for the large parish receptions. Fr. John continues to enthusiastically promote both the diocesan case and the parish case of the gym and the school endowment.

At the **Catholic Community of Flint Fr. Tom Firestone** hosted two nicely attended All-In Ministry gatherings after the Vigil Mass and 11:00 Sunday Mass last weekend. 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 meeting with parish leaders and inviting them to consider early gift decisions to drive campaign momentum. Fr. Phil is nicely articulating the notion of gratitude, joy and love as spiritual considerations for 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. David Harvey** are meeting with parish leaders to discuss how the *Witness to Hope* campaign will strengthen **St. John the Evangelist, Fenton** and the 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** and staff are preparing for the All-In Ministry meeting on Sunday, Oct 1st to build broad understanding and support with parishioners involved in ministry, parish organizations and parish volunteers. Parish share funds will enhance Evangelization, Education and Charitable Outreach at St. Matthew as a witness to the Catholic faith in downtown Flint.

St. Mary, Pinckney – **Fr. Dan Kogut** gave a presentation at an in-home reception this week. Thank you to **Deacon Dan Hall** and his family for opening their home for the event. More receptions are being planned. Pledges continue to come in.

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 Anthor** will be making an announcement after the masses this weekend with more information about the campaign.

St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – **Fr. Bob Roggenbuck** did 12 leadership meetings in a row on Monday. Those who came in received the message well and seemed supportive and excited about the campaign. Small group gatherings are being scheduled. Pledges continue to come in.

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. **Deacon Leonard Brown** led a small group gathering at the parish this week. He will be meeting with different ministries in the coming weeks. The parish is preparing to host a reception with the Bishop in a couple of weeks

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 has set up his finance council and campaign cabinet meetings. His calendar is ready to launch his announcement weekend, and start his lead donor visits.

St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti is a beautiful intimate community of faith filled parishioners. **Fr. Pieter Van Rooyen and Deacon Stan Kukla** have received the data file, and the confirmation date the Bishop will be speaking at the masses in December.

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

The campaign team is finalizing the campaign brochure this week and will meet with members of the campaign leadership team to outline the plan moving forward. The campaign timeline is very condensed yet gatherings and campaign participation phase events are scheduled through the end of November. Fr. Dan will be away next week on convocation and upon his arrival leadership visits and gatherings will be the priority.

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

The campaign team is finalizing the campaign brochure this week. This past Tuesday the All Ministry meeting was held to introduce the initiative to the internal team and leaders as well as outline the plan moving forward. The campaign timeline is very condensed, yet gatherings and campaign participation phase events are scheduled through the end of November. Fr. Francis will be away next week on convocation and upon his arrival leadership visits and gatherings will be the priority.