



With many pastors attending the annual Clergy Convocation the Witness to Hope team used this week to work with parish lay leaders to make follow-up calls, schedule small group and large parish gatherings and continue the momentum of the campaign.

Please pray for Bishop next week as he has several significant leadership gift visits. Come Holy Spirit, guide the hearts of our people to help bishop lead our Church into the future.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

"As base a thing as money often is, it can be transmuted into everlasting treasure. Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth... Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality...."

A.W. Tozer

Christ the King Parish pastor visits are scheduled beginning next week. We are also planning dates for parish-wide gatherings as well as all-in ministry meeting. Campaign brochure draft is being reviewed as the parish plans to display renderings of the major projects to be funded by the combined campaign.

Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center is planning for the parish-wide gatherings to begin the last week of October. **Fr. Tim MacDonald** has several meetings scheduled for next week so we anticipate that gift commitments will begin to start coming in soon.

Old St. Patrick Parish in Ann Arbor will announce the campaign next weekend and our brochure draft is being reviewed. We anticipate pastor visits will begin the week following the Priest convocation and members of the Pastoral council are eager to share the Diocesan case with the community. **Fr. Tom Wasilewski** is enthusiastic about conducting the visits and meeting with parishioners.

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

The campaign finalized the campaign brochure and confirmed members of the campaign leadership team. The team is preparing for its first campaign gathering to be held this coming Thursday. Fr. Dan will be returning from the convocation with sights on leadership visits and gatherings.

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

The campaign finalized the campaign brochure and materials are in production. The campaign leadership team has been confirmed. The team is preparing for its first campaign gathering to be held October 19th. Fr. Francis will be returning from the convocation with sights on leadership visits and gatherings.

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 is energized after two weeks of retreat and convocations to get started with the finance council meeting and the campaign cabinet meeting next week. Father is also very grateful that the Bishop will be visiting the parish for a large parish gathering this month.

St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti is a beautiful intimate community of faith filled parishioners.

Fr. Pieter Van Rooyen and Deacon Stan Kukla have kicked off October with the first meeting to present the Diocesan campaign to the finance council, parish council, and campaign cabinet. Deacon Stan has also completed the parish campaign calendar, and is excited for all the activity in October.

St. Casimir, Lansing

Fr. Bill Lugger

Announcement Weekend took place this weekend and parish receptions are being planned. Artist renditions are in the works for the new steps at the entrance into the church and door replacement.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing

Fr. John Byers

Awaiting artist renditions for the new gym, plans are being made for an unveiling of the plans at a large parish "reveal" reception. Fr. John continues to engage leadership. Nine pledges are in for a total of over \$45,000.

St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing has received a leadership gift of \$500,000 to the parish and \$500,000 to Bishops Diocesan bucket! **Fr. Mark** is excited and eager to meet with more parishioners. The parish hosted its first home gathering and has a large parish gathering this Thursday. The parish has raised \$1,155,291 for 27% of the goal.

St. Therese, Lansing will hold a senior gathering on Tuesday as well as two home gatherings next week. **Fr. John** is following up with pending requests. The parish has raised \$248,800, which is 50% of goal.

St. Catherine Laboure, Concord will host a senior gathering and second cabinet meeting on Monday. **Fr. Tim** is working to schedule more leadership visits and follow up on pending requests. The parish has raised \$155,900, which is 39% of the goal.

St. Joseph – Howell

Fr. Dave is in the process of completing his leadership calls. The in-home receptions have begun and the first after mass weekend was held this past weekend. They are currently at \$242,140

St. Joseph – Dexter

Fr. Brendan and team are busy hosting small group receptions. They have begun planning for the large parish receptions and the parish is moving ahead quickly. **Fr. Brendan** has just a few more leadership calls remaining. They are currently at \$1,670,727

St. Mary – Williamston

Fr. Mark held the third cabinet meeting this week, and they have set all of their campaign dates and recruited hosts for all of their upcoming events. **Fr. Mark** has begun his leadership calls and are looking forward to the first gifts coming. They are currently at \$36,765.

St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor held its 2nd campaign reception this past Sunday after the 10:30 am Mass. Parishioners picked up their packets, viewed the video and a member of the Building Committee explained the plans for the new Ministry Center.

Fr. James Conlon extolled the benefits of a 5-year pledge. Father continues with his Leadership Meetings and is looking forward the first home reception on Friday night October 6th hosted by a couple who are active in the music ministry at St. Francis.

St. Mary, Pinckney – Fr. Dan Kogut – The parish is currently at 36% of goal and pledges are steadily coming in. Plans are being made for future in home gatherings. The parish is also preparing for the Bishop to come in a couple of weeks.

Sacred Heart, Hudson – Fr. Joe Krupp has returned from his pilgrimage. The parish is currently at 35% of goal and **Fr. Joe Krupp** will be doing some follow up calls with those who have submitted a pledge. Plans are being made for Witness Weekend as well as participation weekend.

St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – Fr. Bob Roggenbuck is planning more individual meetings and the cabinet has been asked to assist with small receptions. **Fr. Bob** is following up with a few people who have not turned in pledge cards yet and will soon follow up with any of the 13 he met with last week.

St. Mary of Good Counsel, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS is starting to see some fruit from his individual meetings. More pledge cards are getting out through small meetings that are happening at the parish. Bishop will be coming next week to present to both parishes at St. Joseph.

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 meeting with parishioners through their regular meetings. Follow up calls will be taking place soon. The parish is preparing to host both parishes for a gathering with the Bishop.

At the **Catholic Community of Flint Fr. Tom Firestone** and staff are preparing for parish gatherings at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, October 11th and Monday, October 16th. 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 expecting strong attendance at his All-In ministry gathering on Sunday, October 8th after Mass. Parish share funds will drive outreach and evangelization to empower the poor and propagate the Catholic faith in Flint.

At **St. John the Evangelist** in **Fenton** on Sunday, October 8th at 9:00am **Fr. Robert Copeland** and **Fr. Todd Koenigsknecht** will host a gathering to describe how the *Witness to Hope* campaign will strengthen both the parish and wider church. Parish share funds will reduce Debt, upgrade Facilities and make needed improvements to the historic stone Chapel.

At a gathering last Sunday after Mass **Fr. James Mangan** at **St. Matthew, Flint** outlined his vision to update facilities and strengthen parish life to further witness to the Catholic faith in downtown Flint. Fr. James has met with several parish leaders and invited early pledge decisions to kick-start campaign momentum. Parish share funds will enhance Evangelization, Education and Charitable Outreach.

Fr. James Lothamer PSS at **St. Mary, Morrice** is hosting four receptions at the parish this week. A significant percentage of families have responded to the informational receptions to pray about their participation in the *Witness to Hope* campaign.

St. Mary, Durand and **St. Joseph, Gaines** will be having their commissioning ceremony this weekend. **Fr. Jonathan Perrotta** continues to reach out to families to consider their gift to *Witness to Hope*. The parish will be hosting a few informational receptions at the parish in two weeks to invite more family members to consider their pledge.

Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue will be hosting four after mass receptions at each parish worship location. **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** will be hosting the second small group gathering next week at the parish. The parish will be reaching out to more families to drive attendance at the remaining small group receptions.