



Congratulations to Fr. Chas Canoy, Fr. Brian Lenz and the people of St. John the Evangelist Parish and St. Joseph Oratory in Jackson for surpassing their Witness to Hope goal. St. John the Evangelist/St. Joseph is the twelfth parish from the Wave 1 parishes to surpass their goal. Congratulations to one and all for the great effort!

Congratulations to Bishop Boyea and Fr. Mark Inglot who secured a \$1 million gift for Witness to Hope this week. The gift will benefit both the parish campaign and the Leadership gift effort for the wider Church. This week was also a very active week for Bishop with three Leadership gift visits and visits to Wave 2 parishes for campaign events. The campaign continues to make steady progress.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

"God gives us things to share...God doesn't give us things to hold..."
St. Mother Teresa

Christ the King Parish pastor visits are taking place this week. The first visits have been very positive and the spiritual commitment of those we have met with is a profound inspiration. **Fr. Ed Fride** is doing a wonderful job of presenting both the Diocesan and parish elements with a most refreshing enthusiasm.

Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center has started pastor visits this week and all have been very serious about the requests from **Fr. Tim MacDonald**. The deep love these families have for their parish and their Catholic faith is so evident in these meetings.

Old St. Patrick Parish begins pastor visits next week and we are distributing gift requests to members of the Pastoral council this Thursday and we will be presenting to the Knights of Columbus this Sunday, the 15th. **Fr. Tom Wasilewski** is very enthusiastic about conducting the visits and meeting with parishioners.

St. Casimir, Lansing

Fr. Bill Luggner

The Witness To Hope campaign timeline is set, including a Seniors' Coffee and Donut reception that has been slated for Thursday, October 26 and a presentation to the Knights of Columbus in November. 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

Plans are being finalized for the new gym/multi-purpose facility. Parish receptions are being planned to unveil building plans and packet distribution.

The first home reception for **St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor** was a success with over 25 parishioners involved in music ministry gathered to hear **Fr. James Conlon** speak about the details of the campaign and plans for the parish's new Ministry Center. This weekend the 3rd large campaign gathering will take place after the 8:30 Mass and 3 more home receptions have been scheduled in the weeks ahead.

St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing will host parish gatherings after all the masses at St. Thomas this weekend. **Fr. Mark** and the other priests are continuing to meet with more leadership parishioners. The parish has raised \$1,241,451 for 29% of the goal.

St. Therese, Lansing held a senior gathering on Tuesday and a home gathering. **Fr. John** is following up with more pending requests. The parish is working quickly towards its 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 \$205,300, which is 51% of the goal.

St. Joseph – Howell

Fr. Dave is in the process of completing his leadership calls. The in-home receptions have begun and a Senior reception has been held, and the second after mass weekend is being held this weekend. They are currently at \$293,840

St. Joseph – Dexter

Fr. Brendan and team are busy hosting large group receptions. They have begun planning for the witness weekend and the parish is moving ahead quickly. **Fr. Brendan** has just a few more leadership calls remaining. They are currently at \$1,711,326

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 is looking forward to the first gifts coming. They are currently at \$61,765.

At the **Catholic Community of Flint Fr. Tom Firestone** continues to meet with motivated parish leaders to encourage leadership gifts to inspire excitement and enthusiasm 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** appreciated strong attendance and great questions at his All-In ministry gathering last Sunday. Parish leaders are responding to **Fr. Phil's** invitation to reflect deeply on gratitude, joy and love as spiritual considerations for giving. 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 Fr. Robert Copeland** and **Fr. Todd Koenigs knecht** have scheduled many ministry and parish gatherings in October for conversations on 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.

Fr. James Mangan continues to reach out to parish leaders to share his vision to enhance facilities to strengthen parish life and inspire the faith at **St. Matthew** in downtown **Flint**. **Fr. James** is inviting parish leaders to make early pledge decisions to kick-start campaign momentum. Parish share funds will enhance Evangelization, Education and Charitable Outreach.

St. Mary, Pinckney – Fr. Dan Kogut has been making follow up calls this week. Pledges are coming in and the parish is now at 43%. A cabinet meeting was held in preparation for the Bishop reception next week and events following events.

Sacred Heart, Hudson – Fr. Joe Krupp had a busy week with funerals, but was still able to make some follow up calls and visits. The staff has been very helpful during his busy week. We have readjusted the timeline and we are preparing for Witness Weekend to happen next weekend.

St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – Fr. Bob Roggenbuck had 3 more individual meetings this week and there are 8 more scheduled for next week. He also is following up with 14 families who have yet to turn in their pledge card. Invitations will be going out for small parish gatherings and after mass receptions are being planned.

St. Mary of Good Counsel, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS hosted the Bishop for a reception this week at St. Joseph parish. There were 20 families in attendance. **Bishop Boyea** had a wonderful presentation and answered many questions about the campaign and the future of the parish.

St. Joseph, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS will be making himself as available as possible for the events at St. Joseph. **Deacon Leonard Brown** assisted with hosting **Bishop Boyea** for a reception at the parish. **Deacon Leonard** has also been meeting with groups at the parish at their regular meetings.

The parishioners at **St. Pius X** are continuing to show their support for the Witness to Hope campaign; 23 pledges totaling \$177,250 bring the campaign to 25% of goal. **Fr. Strouse** is very enthusiastic about the campaign and is finding support continuing to increase.

Fr. Ken will be hosting a campaign reception after Mass next Tuesday at **St. Francis Xavier, Otisville**. Packets are being mailed out to parishioners who attended the announcement weekend receptions.

Fr. Ken Coughlin and the campaign cabinet have hosted four receptions at **SS. Charles and Helena, Clio** the past few weeks. Pledges from 27 parishioners total \$149,180 or

30% of goal. **Fr. Ken** is looking forward to support from the 103 parishioners who have their packets and are praying about their “best sacrificial gift.”

The Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton and Fr. Andrew and Fr. Bob have hosted three leadership receptions with 38 parishioners showing their interest in the campaign. Announcement Weekend is this weekend; October 14-15.

The campaigns at **St. Isidore, Laingsburg**, and **Holy Family, Ovid**, were announced last weekend. **Fr. Duaine Pamment** and closed two leadership gifts representing \$26,000 for a total of 4 pledges representing \$36,750 or 20% of goal. **Fr. Duaine** and the campaign committee are hosting receptions after Masses this weekend at **St. Isidore** and next weekend at **Holy Family**.

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

The campaign team is holding its first campaign gathering Thursday October 12th with members of the parish. Next week they will be hosting the All Ministry Meeting. Fr. Dan confirmed both Campaign Co-Chairs this past week.

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

The campaign materials are in the final stages of production. The campaign leadership team is preparing for its first campaign gathering to be held October 19th.

Fr. James Lothamer PSS at **St. Mary, Morrice** hosted three informational receptions at the parish for families to learn about *Witness to Hope*. Fr. Lothamer continues to call upon families to bring in their commitments to the parish office to assist us in building participation. Leadership meetings continue as we run towards our goal.

Fr. Jonathan Perrotta at **St. Mary, Durand** and **St. Joseph, Gaines** is presenting the Campaign to many ministries in the parish. Fr. Jonathan will be calling upon families who have not turned in their pledge cards to build more momentum in the parish.

Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue had four after mass receptions this past weekend. **Fr. Dwight Ezop** continues to appeal to families in leadership to encourage their participation to the campaign. The campaign cabinet will be meeting in the upcoming week to plan Witness Weekend and Participation Weekend.

Fr. Francis George at **St. John the Baptist, Howell** has reached out to volunteers in the parish to help us with driving attendance at our small group receptions. More mailings have gone out to inform more families of our receptions. Campaign Advocates continue to inform families of the importance of our campaign and will assist us in follow up calls in the weeks ahead.

St. Mary Star of The Sea, in Jackson generous and faith filled communities of Stanislaus Kostka, and the Community of Sacred Heart, are starting see and hear more and more about the Witness to Hope campaign. The parishioners are excited about all the benefits they are learning about through the campaign. Congratulations to **Fr. Timothy Nelson** for being honored by the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MANS) for his strong history of support for faith-based schools. Father was pleased with his first meeting of the campaign with the finance council, and is looking forward to announcement weekend.

St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti held the first meeting with the Finance and Parish Council, and the Campaign Cabinet with much success. We wish **Fr. Pieter Van Rooyen** much success with his dissertation in Rome this week. **Deacon Stan Kukla** is doing a great job moving ahead with all the work going into announcement weekends, and the All In Ministry meeting.