



This past week Bishop Boyea met with additional Leadership Gift prospects and visited more Wave 2 parishes in his effort to share his vision and commitment to Witness to Hope. Fr. Tom Firestone, Fr. Mark Inglot and Fr. Tim MacDonald continue to provide great assistance with these visits.

The campaign staff is busy with dozens of home gatherings, parish gatherings and ministry meetings. Over \$17 million in gift request packets have been distributed to date. In the next week or so we hope to see the fruit of the prayerful discernment from many parishioners as this week to add to the rising campaign total. This week the campaign has passed the \$50 million mark in pledges made.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

*“Just as Baptism is the outward sign of beginning a relationship
with Christ, generosity is the outward sign of Jesus
continually living daily within your life...”*

Anonymous

At the **Catholic Community of Flint Fr. Tom Firestone** continues 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.

At **Christ the King in Flint** parish leaders are responding nicely to **Fr. Philip Schmitter’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** continue to lead many October ministry and parish gatherings for conversations on how *Witness to Hope* 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 will reach out to parishioners for the next several weekends 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** and the parish are grateful to **Bishop Boyea** for taking the time to come celebrate mass and speak about the campaign this week. Also, thank you to **Deacon Dan Hall** and his family for hosting another reception at his house. **Fr. Dan** continue to make follow up calls and will be hosting an informative session after all masses this weekend.

Sacred Heart, Hudson – **Fr. Joe Krupp** is preparing to have their Witness Weekend this weekend. He has lined up parishioners to share their reasons for supporting the campaign and encouraging others to participate. We will evaluate when Participation Weekend will be after this weekend.

St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – **Fr. Bob Roggenbuck** seven more individual meetings this week. He continue to do follow up calls as well. A cabinet meeting was held to go over the remainder of the campaign timeline. There will be two parish receptions in the coming weeks.

St. Mary of Good Counsel, Adrian – **Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS** will be hosting a parish reception this Friday evening. There are plans to speak about the campaign at all the masses and to hand out packets as well.

St. Joseph, Adrian – **Deacon Leonard Brown** continues moving forward with the campaign timeline. Plans are being made to speak about the campaign after all the

masses this weekend and to hand out packets. We continue to remain flexible as we evaluate best courses forward in the campaign.

St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing will host parish gatherings after all the masses at St. John this weekend. **Fr. Mark** is eager for the home gatherings to occur next week and the other priests did a wonderful job speaking about the campaign at St. Thomas last week. They distributed 200 packets. The parish has raised \$1,562,264 for 36% of the goal.

St. Therese, Lansing is getting ready for the Bishop to visit the parish next week. **Fr. John** is following up with more pending requests. The parish is working quickly towards its goal.

St. Catherine Laboure, Concord will host witness weekend this weekend. **Fr. Tim** did a wonderful job last week. The parish has raised \$238,800 which is 60% of the goal. The parish has also reached its base goal for the diocese!

Pastor visits continue at **Christ the King Parish** and the meetings are going very well. Gift commitments are beginning to come in as we plan for parish-wide gatherings to start over the next two weeks. We have also prepared and will be presenting soon to the parish community, renderings of the proposed projects, including the expansion of the narthex and the finishing of the church lower level.

Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center continues with pastor visits. Fr. Tim MacDonald is reaching out to parishioners and meeting with them throughout October. We plan to start parish gatherings after Masses on the last weekend with witness talks from those who have already made pledges. The Fatima Knights of Columbus group has made a leadership pledge to the campaign and we are approaching 25% of the goal after the first few visits.

Old St. Patrick Parish has begun pastor visits and we are now waiting on answers from our first requests. The parish council has suggested some positive enhancements to the case after receiving input from parishioners that the support for the campaign will be greatly impacted by the minor adjustments which Fr. Tom Wasilewski enthusiastically endorsed.

Fr. James Lothamer PSS at St. Mary, Morrice continues to drive momentum in the parish. The campaign cabinet is reaching out to families who have not turned in their packets to help drive our participation. To date, the parish has raised 31% of their parish goal at \$48,570.

Fr. Jonathan Perrotta at St. Mary, Durand and St. Joseph, Gaines has hosted two parish receptions this week at the St. Mary worship location. Families are continuing to respond generously with their best sacrificial gift to *Witness to Hope*. Parishioners will be encouraged to pick up their packets after Mass this weekend.

Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue is hosting a cabinet meeting this week to discuss strategy for *Witness to Hope*. **Fr. Dwight Ezop** is meeting with more families that can contribute to the Campaign at a leadership level. Various ministries at the parish will be solicited for their prayerful contribution and financial support.

Fr. Francis George at St. John the Baptist, Howell is hosting informational receptions after each Mass this weekend. The campaign cabinet is reaching out to families in leadership to drive attendance for a number of our upcoming week day receptions. Next week, Fr. John Linden and Dawn Hausmann will be presenting at the parish about the importance of *Witness to Hope* and the critical impact that it will have on our vocations.

St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor is conducting "Pledge Packet Pick-Up Weekend" in the Church at all 7 Masses this weekend. **Fr. James Conlon** continues his one-on-one meetings and there are 4 home receptions planned for early November.

St. Pius X, Flint Township – Fr. Anthony Strouse - The final reception was held this week. Packets are being distributed after Masses this weekend and the following weekend next is Witness Weekend. Fr. Strouse has closed all of the leadership gifts. Pledges totaling \$193,590 have been received from 29 parishioners.

SS. Charles and Helena, Clio – Fr. Ken Coughlin – Fr. Ken and the campaign cabinet held receptions after Mass last weekend and distributed over 75 pledge packets. Fr Ken will be contacting parishioners and closing leadership gift requests before he leaves for

his hunting trip. Pledges from 42 parishioners total \$222,705 or 45% of the goal. The parishioners are responding generously to the campaign.

St. Francis Xavier, Otisville – Fr. Ken Coughlin – Pledge packets were distributed after Mass Tuesday night and the final leadership meeting was held. Packets will be distributed after Mass this weekend and throughout November. Pledges from 3 parishioners total \$8,800 or 8% of goal.

The Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton - Fr. Andrew Czajkowski and Fr. Bob Bacik. Fr. Andrew and Fr. Bob announced the campaign last weekend at all seven (7) Masses. Several receptions are planned for October and November. Fr. Bob will begin leadership visits soon. Pledges from 4 parishioners total \$8,170 or 1% of goal.

St. Isidore, Laingsburg - Fr. Duaine Pamment – A reception was held Saturday evening after Mass and the Knights of Columbus sponsored a pancake breakfast after Sunday Mass. Packets were distributed to over 70 families. Pledges from 7 parishioners total \$41,350 or 22% of goal.

Holy Family, Ovid – Fr. Duaine Pamment - Fr. Duaine is at a canon law conference this week and will return on Friday. Receptions will be held at Holy Family this week to give parishioners an opportunity to pick up their pledge packets and get their questions answered about the campaign. Pledges from 2 parishioners total \$6,500 or 5% of goal.

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. **Fr. Timothy Nelson** was very pleased with his first meeting of the campaign cabinet and all the support shown for the campaign. The community is looking forward to announcement weekend, and sharing some time with the bishop at the parish reception.

St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti held their all-in ministry meeting this week with much success. Great questions were brought up, and everyone left with a clear picture of the campaign. Congratulations to **Fr. Pieter Van Rooyen** with his dissertation in Rome this

week. **Deacon Stan Kukla** is doing a wonderful job moving ahead with all the work going into announcement weekend.

St. Joseph – Howell

Fr. Dave has completed his leadership calls. The in-home receptions are done and a Senior reception has been held, we also held our second after mass weekend this past weekend and **Fr. Dave** is planning to share more information to all during Mass this weekend. They are currently at \$351,720

St. Joseph – Dexter

Fr. Brendan and team are busy hosting large group receptions. They have begun planning for the witness weekend and the parish hosted a Senior reception this week. **Fr. Brendan** has completed his leadership calls. They are currently at \$1,817,307

St. Mary – Williamston

Fr. Mark the third cabinet is all set to host In-home receptions next week and is looking forward to moving ahead. **Fr. Mark** is continuing his leadership calls and are looking forward to the first gifts coming. They are currently at \$61,765.

St. Casimir, Lansing

Fr. Bill Lugg

Plans are set for a Seniors' Coffee and Donut reception on Thursday, October 26th. Announcements from the pulpit continue to remind parishioners of upcoming parish presentations and packet distribution.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing

Fr. John Byers

Promotion of parish receptions on October 24th and November 9th continue. Plans for the gym/multi-purpose facility will be unveiled on Tuesday, volunteers are lined up for assistance with the receptions and packet distribution.

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

The campaign team hosted the first campaign gathering Thursday October 16th with members of the parish. They are anticipating their first campaign gift. In the next two weeks they will be hosting campaign gatherings to share the news of the Witness to Hope initiative.

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

The campaign team hosted the first campaign gathering Thursday October 19th with members of the parish. They are anticipating their first campaign gift. In the next two weeks they will be hosting campaign gatherings to share the news of the Witness to Hope initiative.