



This past week Bishop Boyea attended several parish gatherings to share his vision about the campaign. Bishop was greeted by many parishioners who enthusiastically welcomed him to their parishes; and who asked great questions about the campaign.

The campaign staff is busy with dozens of home gatherings, parish gatherings and ministry meetings. The number of packets distributed this week doubled and over \$29 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

"One of our greatest tests is to see if we are able to bless someone else while we are going through our own storm"

Anonymous

Pastor visits continue at **Christ the King Parish** and the meetings are going very well. Gift commitments are coming in and parish-wide gatherings are scheduled for the first two weekends of November. We will be presenting to the Knights of Columbus and the Men's Ministry and other parish groups throughout November. We are engaging the parish leadership team to begin reminder calls to those that we have visited.

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. We are nearing the \$170,000 mark in our campaign from just 11 commitments. Momentum is building and families are responding enthusiastically.

Old St. Patrick Parish has begun pastor visits and we are now waiting on answers from our first requests. Pastor visits continue with meetings Thursday and Friday of this week with many more scheduled next week. We will be having our parish-wide gatherings beginning the weekend of November 11/12.

St. Casimir, Lansing

Fr. Bill Lugger

Plans are set for a Seniors' Coffee and Donut reception on Thursday, November 2nd. Announcements from the pulpit continue to remind parishioners of upcoming parish presentations. Packet distribution begins after masses this weekend.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing

Fr. John Byers

Unveiling of the plans for the gym/multi-purpose facility took place on Tuesday at a large Parish Reception. Another reception will take place on Thursday, November 9th. Volunteers are ready for assistance with packet distribution after masses this weekend.

St. Joseph – Howell

Fr. Dave shared the campaign plan during Mass this past week with a great response. Over 150 were given out after mass and the excitement is building through the entire parish. Witness weekend will be held this weekend with participation weekend coming fast. They are currently at \$430,740

St. Joseph – Dexter

Fr. Brendan hosted the parishes senior event and hosted witness weekend this past weekend and will hold the last reception Wednesday as they begin to look towards participation weekend in two weeks. **Fr. Brendan** has completed his leadership calls. They are currently at \$1,822,406

St. Mary – Williamston

Fr. Mark has begun his In-Home receptions this week with a great response. He and the team also hosted the parish senior reception with a great turn out. **Fr. Mark** is continuing 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 encourage parishioners to pick up their personalized campaign packets after all the Masses and consider bringing their pledge card to church to drive campaign momentum. 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 definitely leading by example with his own personal best sacrifice five-year pledge. Parish leaders are responding enthusiastically 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.

Fr. Robert Copeland and **Fr. David Harvey** will be speaking at all Masses for the next several weekends on how *Witness to Hope* will strengthen both **St. John the Evangelist** in **Fenton** the and wider church. Parish share funds will reduce Debt, upgrade Facilities and make needed improvements to the historic stone Chapel.

After Mass this weekend **Fr. James Mangan** will share his inspiration on how the *Witness to Hope* campaign will build up the wider church and strengthen parish life at **St. Matthew** in downtown **Flint**. **Fr. James** is inviting parish leaders to pick up their personalized pledge packets after Mass and make 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** encourages the community to make their decisions of faith to the *Witness to Hope* campaign. To date, the parish has raised 50% of their parish goal at \$79,070. Cabinet members will speak at the end of each mass next weekend to share their personal testimony as to invite more families to support the Campaign.

Fr. Jonathan Perrotta at **St. Mary, Durand** and **St. Joseph, Gaines** appealed to the congregation at each mass to pick up their packets. As a result, over 100 families have received their packets and are considering their gifts. The campaign cabinet will also reach out to families and encourage them to bring in their gifts to the campaign.

Fr. Dwight Ezop at the **Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue** and hosted a packet-pickup weekend at the St. Mary worship location after Mass. Families who have received their packets will be contacted to encourage them to turn their gifts in and to assist and drive our participation. This weekend, more families will be encouraged to pick up their packets and families will be exhorted to submit their pledge if they have not done so already.

Fr. Francis George at **St. John the Baptist, Howell** hosted presentations after each Mass this weekend for families to learn about *Witness to Hope*. 110 families had attended the large group presentation. As families consider to make their gifts, the Cabinet continues to reach out to families who have not attended a small group gathering to attend the remaining meetings in November.

St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor had their first of three “Pledge Packet Pick-Up Weekends” after all 7 Masses last weekend. In his homilies **Fr. Shaun Lowery**, parochial vicar encouraged parishioners to pray about their support. A total of 70 parish volunteers participated in “Pledge Packet Pick-Up” and by setting up tables in the Gathering Space they were able to give out 560 campaign packets to parishioners. So far, between receptions and individual leadership meetings **Fr. James Conlon** reports that over 700 parishioners have received their personalized pledge requests. This weekend he is announcing that the parish has \$1 million in pledges against the goal of \$8 million.

St. Mary, Pinckney – Fr. Dan Kogut is happy to report that the parish is at 54% of goal. The staff and cabinet are preparing for Witness Weekend this weekend. Speakers have been briefed on the messaging and volunteers are being organized to hand out the packets. Another in-home reception is being planned as well.

Sacred Heart, Hudson – Fr. Joe Krupp had Witness Weekend last weekend. Lots of packets were handed and the remaining ones are being mailed. The parish will be preparing for their participation weekend next week.

St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – Fr. Bob Roggenbuck hosted a parish gathering on Monday. Packets were handed out to families this week as they dropped off their

children for Religious Education. Another parish gathering is being planned for next week and more individual meetings are being scheduled

St. Mary of Good Counsel, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS promoted the campaign at the end of the masses this week and encouraged parishioners to pick up their packets. Follow-up calls are being made and the parish will be preparing for their Witness Weekend next weekend.

St. Joseph, Adrian –Deacon Leonard Brown spoke about the campaign after his homily this weekend. He also encouraged the parishioners to pick-up their packets on their way out and many packets were distributed. Follow-up calls are being made and witness speakers are being lined up for next weekend.

St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing is in the process of hosting a few home gatherings this week. **Fr. Mark** will lead a student appeal with MSU students on Thursday night. The parish has raised \$1,725,264 for 40% of the goal.

St. Therese, Lansing hosted its final gathering with the Bishop. **Fr. John** is continuing to following up with pending requests. The parish is at \$322,315.

St. Catherine Laboure, Concord held witness weekend and has distributed about 2/3 of its packets. **Fr. Tim** and the committee are following up with parishioners. The parish has raised \$258,570, which is 65% of the goal.

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

The campaign team will host another round of parish campaign gatherings this Saturday after the 5:30 PM Vigil Mass. They have 19 pending requests totaling over \$90,000 and Fr. Dan is still anticipating the first Witness to Hope campaign gift.

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

The campaign team hosted two campaign gatherings this past week with over 30 families in attendance. They have 30 pending requests totaling over \$200,000 and Fr. Francis is still anticipating the first Witness to Hope campaign gift.

St. Mary Star of The Sea, in Jackson generous and faith filled communities of Stanislaus Kostka, and the Community of Sacred Heart, shared a blessed and wonderful reception with the Bishop on Wednesday evening. The Bishop shared his vision and mission of the campaign, as the parishioners attentively hung to his every word. **Fr. Timothy Nelson** was very pleased with the turn out for the Bishops reception, and even more to see how all the families pick up their packets. Great job to all those that made this a wonderful success.

St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti is a blessed community of wonderful people. They are preparing to rollout announcement weekend this Saturday and Sunday. **Fr. Pieter Van Rooyen** will be presenting to the whole parish the Witness to Hope diocese campaign. **Deacon Stan Kukla** will be greatly missed while away at the deacon's convocation.

St. Pius X, Flint Township – Fr. Anthony Strouse - Great weekend distributing packets. Fr. Anthony will show the *Witness to Hope* DVD this weekend during Mass. Pledge packets will also be distributed after each Mass this weekend. Thank you to the ARISE prayer group and Principal RJ Kaplan for distributing packets last weekend.

SS. Charles and Helena, Clio – Fr. Ken Coughlin – The campaign cabinet is meeting this week to finalize plans for packet distribution and Witness Weekend. Pledge packets will be distributed again this weekend after all Masses. Thank you to the campaign cabinet for coordinating the distribution of pledge packets.

St. Francis Xavier, Otisville – Fr. Ken Coughlin – Great weekend distributing pledge packets. Packets will be distributed again this weekend after both Masses. Thank you to the parishioners for helping to distribute packets.

The Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton - Fr. Andrew Czajkowski and Fr. Bob Bacik. The pancake breakfast at Blessed Sacrament was well-attended last weekend. Parishioners stayed after Mass to learn about the campaign and have a great breakfast. Thank you to all of the volunteers for cooking, decorating and cleaning up.

St. Isidore, Laingsburg - Fr. Duaine Pamment – The campaign cabinet met this week and made plans to distribute packets after Masses this weekend. Thank you to the cabinet members for help distributing packets.

Holy Family, Ovid – Fr. Duaine Pamment – Receptions were held last weekend after both Masses. Parishioners asked very good questions and showed support for the campaign. Packets will be distributed again this weekend after both Masses. Thank you to the Altar Society for your help.