



Many more personal packets have been distributed this week. There are over \$38 million in gift requests that have been distributed for prayerful discernment. Pastors and parish leaders are being encouraged to ask those who have received packets to take the time to pray about their potential “best sacrifice” and make their decision. We are looking for a big momentum boost over the next two weeks.

Bishop Boyea continues his active role in the campaign with three leadership gift visits this week and several parish visits as well.

**Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director**

#### **Parish News**

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*“Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income...”*  
*Proverbs 3:9*

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Gift commitments are coming in at **Christ the King** as we prepare for parish-wide gatherings and ministry meetings. We are engaging the parish leadership team to begin reminder calls to those that we have visited. Fr. Ed Fride continues his leadership visits.

Fr. Tim MacDonald continues with pastor visits at **Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center**. We plan to start parish gatherings after Masses in two weeks depending on the outcome of our pastor visits.

**Old St. Patrick Parish** has begun pastor visits and we are now waiting on answers from our first requests. Packet distribution will begin next week as we engage members of

the various parish ministries. We will be having our parish-wide gatherings beginning the weekend of November 11/12.

At the **Catholic Community of Flint Fr. Tom Firestone** continues to encourage parishioners to bring in their pledge cards as soon as possible 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.

At **Christ the King in Flint** parish leaders are responding enthusiastically to **Fr. Philip Schmitter's** invitation to reflect deeply on gratitude, joy and love as spiritual considerations for giving. **Fr. Phil** has inspired many by submitting his own generous 5-year pledge. Parish share funds will drive outreach and evangelization to empower the poor and propagate the Catholic faith in Flint.

**Fr. David Harvey** spoke at all the Masses last weekends on how *Witness to Hope* will strengthen **St. John the Evangelist in Fenton**. **Fr. Harvey** reminded parishioners of their remarkable accomplishments in building up parish life and facilities over the last four decades. Parish share funds will reduce Debt, upgrade Facilities and make needed improvements to the historic stone Chapel.

After all the Masses this weekend **Fr. James Mangan** will share his inspiration on how the *Witness to Hope* campaign will 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.

**St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor** has distributed close to 800 campaign packets and is gearing up for a series of 3 large home receptions in the next 2 weeks. This weekend there will be Witness Talks at the 7 Masses and **Fr. James Conlon** is announcing that the parish is approaching \$2 million in pledges against the goal of \$8 million. A special effort being made with all school families, including packet distribution at the November 3<sup>rd</sup> parent conferences.

**St. Mary Star of The Sea, in Jackson** is a generous and faith filled parish, along with the communities of Stanislaus Kostka, and the Community of Sacred Heart. All three communities are prayerfully considering what their sacrificial participation in the campaign is going to be. **Fr. Timothy Nelson** is strongly pushing ahead with the campaign from the pulpit, and letting the parishioners understand this is a blessing for all of the Lansing parishes.

**St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti** is a blessed community of wonderful people. **Fr. Pieter van Rooyen** did a wonderful job with announcement weekend and really captured the parishioners to make them understand how the Witness to Hope diocese campaign will be a blessing for all. **Deacon Stan Kukla** was greatly missed while away at the deacon's convocation.

#### **St. Joseph – Howell**

**Fr. Dave** hosted witness weekend during Mass this past week with a great response. Over 100 packets were given out after mass and the excitement is building through the entire parish. Participation weekend will be held this weekend  
They are currently at \$690,755

#### **St. Joseph – Dexter**

**Fr. Brendan** hosted witness weekend this past weekend and all remaining packets have been mailed. Participation weekend will be in two weeks.  
**Fr. Brendan** has completed his leadership calls. They are currently at \$1,979,682

#### **St. Mary – Williamston**

**Fr. Mark** has begun his parish receptions this week with a great response. He and the team also hosted the parish's senior reception with a great turn out. **Fr. Mark** is continuing his leadership calls and are looking forward to the first gifts coming. They are currently at \$95,765.

**St. Pius X, Flint Township – Fr. Anthony Strouse** - Another great weekend distributing packets. The parishioners listened to the *Witness to Hope* DVD and are getting ready for

Participation Weekend. Thank you to St. Pius X Principal and Cabinet Member, RJ Kaplan and Cabinet Member Mr. Curt Collier for helping distribute packets.

**SS. Charles and Helena, Clio – Fr. Ken Coughlin** – Members of the Campaign Cabinet distributed over 100 pledge packets after all Masses last weekend. Fr. Ken leaves for his annual hunting trip this week. The parish will hear from a Campaign Cabinet member this weekend and a team of volunteers will mail the remaining pledge packet out next Monday. Thank you to Campaign Cabinet Co-Chair, Debi Hartman for organizing the packet distribution last weekend.

**St. Francis Xavier, Otisville – Fr. Ken Coughlin** – Another good weekend distributing pledge packets. The remaining packets were mailed this week. Upon Fr. Ken's return from his annual hunting trip the parish will be prepared for Participation Weekend. Thank you to Parish Secretary Karen Beauchesne for keeping the bulletin announcements and bulletin inserts organized.

**The Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton - Fr. Andrew Czajkowski and Fr. Bob Bacik.** Interest in the Witness to Hope campaign is strong. Over 200 packets were distributed after Masses on All Saints Day and during two informational meetings. Fr. Andrew plans to continue distributing packets after Mass and holding informational meetings in the family viewing room off the new beautiful gathering space every weekend. Thank you to Elaine, Joyce, Chris, Jan and Loretta who helped distribute packets on All Saints Day.

**St. Isidore, Laingsburg - Fr. Duaine Pamment** – Campaign packets were distributed after Masses last weekend. Witness Weekend is this weekend and all remaining packets will be mailed out next week. Thank you to Cabinet Co-Chair Fred Brusco for distributing packets. And a big thank you to Parish Secretary Sharon Gillespie for keeping the bulletin inserts and campaign announcements organized at both St. Isidore and Holy Family.

**Holy Family, Ovid – Fr. Duaine Pamment** – Packets will be distributed again this weekend after both Masses and the remaining packets will be mailed out.

Thank you to Parish Secretary Sharon Gillespie for keeping the bulletin inserts and campaign announcements organized at both St. Isidore and Holy Family.

**St. Casimir, Lansing**

**Fr. Bill Lugger**

Seniors' Coffee and Donut reception took place on Thursday morning. Announcements from the pulpit continue to remind parishioners of upcoming parish presentations. Packet distribution began with 232 packets being picked up over the past weekend.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing**

**Fr. John Byers**

Packet distribution began last weekend, approximately 300 parishioners have received packets. A presentation was made to the Knights of Columbus. Building plans for the new gym/multi-purpose facility are on display in the Gathering, and are generating a lot of excitement.

**Fr. James Lothamer PSS at St. Mary, Morrice** is leading the parish to drive best sacrificial gifts towards the *Witness to Hope* campaign. This weekend, the parish will be conducting our 'Witness Weekend' during each of the weekend mass times. The parish has received 51% of their overall goal from 19 families. The parish staff, campaign cabinet, and parish councils are excited for the current success in the parish and eager to hear the response from congregation.

**Fr. Jonathan Perrotta at St. Mary, Durand and St. Joseph, Gaines** continues to speak enthusiastically to the parish about *Witness to Hope*. Father Jon has made tremendous efforts to encourage families to make their prayerful decision of faith through personal phone calls, emails, and personal conversations. To date, the parish has received \$93,503 from 25 families – 27% of the overall goal. The parish will continue to drive decisions leading into Witness Weekend next weekend.

**Fr. Dwight Ezop at the Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue** continues to passionately and enthusiastically reach out to many families about *Witness to Hope*. As a result of Father Dwight's tremendous leadership and efforts, the parish has successfully raised \$212,270 from 31 families – 42% of the overall goal.

This weekend, the parish will be hosting 'Witness Weekend' to drive participation, engagement, and prayerful collaboration in support of the Campaign.

**Fr. Francis George at St. John the Baptist, Howell** hosted two informational receptions after Mass on the Solemnity of All Saints. Many families were encouraged to pick up their packets and prayerfully discuss their participation in *Witness to Hope*. This weekend, Father George will host Witness Weekend, and encourage families to pick up their personalized packets after Mass. An informational reception will also be hosted after each Mass to provide a platform for families to have their questions answered and learn more about the Campaign.

**St. Mary, Pinckney – Fr. Dan Kogut** is happy to report that the parish is at 60% of goal as they start preparing for Witness Weekend. They will be making one last push for handing out packets this weekend and Witness Weekend will follow. **Fr. Dan** continues to make follow up calls and appointments for leadership meetings.

**Sacred Heart, Hudson – Fr. Joe Krupp** has crossed the \$100,000 mark as they go into Witness Weekend this weekend. He is hopeful that this weekend will get them at or close to goal.

**St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – Fr. Bob Roggenbuck** will be hosted another parish gathering this week. Packets were handed out after all the All Saints Day masses and more packets will be handed out after every mass this weekend. We have adjusted the campaign timeline to give us the best opportunity to hit goal.

**St. Mary of Good Counsel, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS** will be having Witness Weekend this weekend. Packets will be handed out this weekend as well as the next couple of weekends. We have a target of early December for Participation Weekend now.

**St. Joseph, Adrian –Deacon Leonard Brown** hosted an informational session after all the masses last weekend. The parish will be having their Witness Weekend this weekend and the speaker has been a long time parishioner there. We are evaluating the campaign timeline as pledges continue to come in.

**St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing** is continuing to host more home gatherings this week. **Fr. Mark** will lead witness weekend at St. Thomas this weekend. The parish has raised \$2,019,814 for 47% of the goal.

**St. Therese, Lansing** is hosting Witness Weekend this weekend. **Fr. John** is continuing to following up with pending requests. The parish is over \$400,000 towards its goal.

**St. Catherine Laboure, Concord** will host participation weekend this weekend. **Fr. Tim** is eager to reach goal this weekend. The parish has raised \$315,020, which is 79% of the goal.

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

The campaign hosted two campaign gatherings this past Saturday after the 5:30 PM Vigil Mass and after the Mass on All Saints Day. Over 25 households attended the two gatherings. They now have 42 pending requests totaling over \$127,000. Fr. Dan and the campaign are pleased to report they now have over \$25,000 pledged from 6 households.

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

The campaign hopes to gain some traction and support as the parish welcomes Bishop Boyea Monday night November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. They have received their first gift of \$5,000 and still have 30 pending requests totaling over \$200,000. Fr. Francis encourages his parishioners to support the first ever diocesan wide campaign, Witness to Hope.