



Congratulations to Fr. John Fain and the people of St. Therese, Lansing for being the first parish in the wave to reach and surpass their goal. Great job!

Some great gifts received this week and major progress in moving the total up towards our goal and beyond! The campaign is in the home stretch and we have just passed the \$60 million mark. Several more parishes are very close to reaching their parish goals.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, He himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing is hosting participation weekend this weekend. The parish has met the base diocesan goal. **Fr. Mark** is following up with lead donors. **Fr. Gary & Fr. Ryan** led witness weekend at St. John this weekend. The parish has raised \$3,405,299 for 79% of the goal.

St. Therese, Lansing is officially over goal! **Fr. John** is leading participation weekend this weekend. The parish is over \$600,000 and 120% of its goal.

St. Catherine Laboure, Concord is getting ready for follow up weekend this weekend. **Fr. Tim** will do some follow up upon his return from vacation. The parish has raised \$359,006, which is 89% of the goal.

At **Christ the King**, **Fr. Ed Fride** is continuing his leadership visits as we prepare for parish-wide gatherings and ministry meetings. Packet distribution has begun and we will be having Witness talks next weekend. Personal visits will continue as we have many families that would like to meet with Fr. Ed.

Fr. Tim MacDonald has concluded his pastor visits at **Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center**. We will conduct parish after-Mass gatherings and packet distribution this weekend ...(we are currently just under 70% of the campaign goal).

Old St. Patrick Parish has wrapped-up individual pastor visits (32 visits total) and we are now sending reminder emails on our first requests. Packet distribution will begin next week as we engage members of the various parish ministries. We are presenting to the St. Patrick Cemetery Association and the Knights of Columbus this weekend.

St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor has distributed over 1000 campaign packets through after-Mass events, home receptions and “packet-pickup weekends” thanks to 70 volunteers who assisted this important effort. The balance of the packets have been mailed out to families in anticipation of participation weekend. **Fr. James Conlon and Fr. Shaun Lowery** continue to encourage parishioners to make their best sacrifice with the theme *Now Is The Time* as the hope is to be at \$4 million – 50% of the goal – by Thanksgiving weekend.

At the **Catholic Community of Flint** **Fr. Tom Firestone** is preparing for participation weekend on 18-19 November and asking all parishioners to reflect deeply on their support of 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** **Fr. Philip Schmitter** has led by example from the start with his own remarkable 5-year pledge. Parishioners continue to respond to **Fr. Phil’s** invitation to consider 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, Fr. Todd Koenigsnecht and Fr. David Harvey spoke frequently after Mass over the last several weekends on how the *Witness to Hope* campaign will provide resources to strengthen **St. John the Evangelist in Fenton** and the wider church. Parish share funds will reduce debt, upgrade Facilities and make needed improvements to the historic stone Chapel.

At weekend Masses recently **Fr. James Mangan** and parish leaders have shared their inspiration on the transformational aspects of the *Witness to Hope* campaign for the wider church and **St. Matthew** in downtown **Flint**. **Fr. James** is encouraging parish leaders to make early pledge decisions to drive campaign momentum. Parish share funds will enhance Evangelization, Education and Charitable Outreach.

St. Pius X, Flint Township – Fr. Anthony Strouse - All pledge packets have been mailed. The Witness Weekend was very inspirational. Campaign pledges from 86 parishioners total \$329,976 or 48% of goal. Fr. Strouse and the campaign cabinet are optimistic that the parishioners who are still praying will make their commitment in anticipation of Bishop Boyea's celebration of Mass on Sunday, December 3rd. Thank you to parishioners for your sacrificial gifts to the campaign.

SS. Charles and Helena, Clio – Fr. Ken Coughlin – Good news – campaign pledges from 101 parishioners total \$352,110 or 70% of goal as Fr. Ken and the campaign cabinet prepare for Participation this weekend. Thank you to the cabinet for your continued support of campaign and parishioners for your sacrificial gifts to the campaign.

St. Francis Xavier, Otisville – Fr. Ken Coughlin – Participation weekend is fast approaching. Fr. Ken will be contacting parishioners who are praying about their pledge. Pledges from 18 parishioners total \$109,290 or 54% of goal. Thank you to parishioners for your sacrificial gifts to the campaign.

The Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton - Fr. Andrew Czajkowski and Fr. Bob Bacik. Over 600 packets have been distributed over the last two weekends. Parishioners are enthusiastic about the campaign and are beginning to pledge. Packets will continue to be distributed after

Masses for a few more weekends. Impromptu information sessions will also be held after Masses.

St. Isidore, Laingsburg - Fr. Duaine Pamment – Fr. Pamment has invited parishioners to speak at Mass this weekend and next. Pledges from 31 parishioners total \$96,150 or 51% of goal. Thank you to parishioners for your sacrificial gifts to the campaign.

Holy Family, Ovid – Fr. Duaine Pamment – Dcn. John, under the direction of Fr. Pamment will be inviting parishioners to give witness testimony at Mass this weekend and next. Pledges from 15 parishioners total \$58,300 or 48% of goal. Thank you to parishioners for your sacrificial gifts to the campaign.

St. Mary Star of The Sea, in Jackson is a generous and faith filled community, composed of Stanislaus Kostka, and the Community of Sacred Heart. All three communities had great participation in the campaign this weekend, picking up their packets and returning their pledge cards. As we now have 34 pledges for a total of \$191,165. **Fr. Timothy Nelson** has been very instrumental in the success of the response and enthusiasm for the witness to hope campaign.

St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti is a blessed community of wonderful people. **Deacon Stan and Fr. Pieter van Rooyen** are working hard at getting the word out to the parishioners to pick up their packets and to generously and joyfully participate in the witness to hope campaign. As of last weekend 92 packets were handed out, and we are looking forward to this weekend getting some more parishioners picking up theirs.

Fr. James Lothamer PSS at **St. Mary, Morrice** led a tremendous effort for *Witness to Hope* over the weekend. Fr. Lothamer encouraged families to participate in the Campaign by filling out their pledge cards at Mass to increase participation. Due to his enthusiastic leadership, and the incredible engagement of the parish campaign cabinet, the parish has raised an excess of 96% of their goal! Families continue to make their commitments leading into a follow up weekend.

Fr. Jonathan Perrotta at **St. Mary, Durand** and **St. Joseph, Gaines** led Witness Weekend at each Mass. Father Perrotta spent a large portion of the week following up with families who prayerfully considering their best sacrificial gift to *Witness to Hope*. In the

upcoming week, the parish will host a phone-a-thon to reach out to families who have their packets and to drive decisions of faith.

Fr. Dwight Ezop at the **Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue** continues to drive decisions by following up with families who are prayerfully considering their participation to *Witness to Hope*. Father Ezop has reached out to the campaign leadership with requests to follow up with phone calls to answer questions for families discerning their gift. As a result, the parish has achieved 61% of their overall goal from 66 families.

Fr. Francis George at **St. John the Baptist, Howell** hosted small group receptions at the parish to appeal to families to participate in *Witness to Hope*. Presentations were made at the parish council, and to families in religious education, to provide an opportunity for families to get their questions answered. To date, the parish has raised \$185,050 from 49 families.

St. Casimir, Lansing

Fr. Bill Lugg

Announcements from the pulpit continue to remind parishioners to turn in their pledge cards; over 50% of the packets have been distributed! A presentation was made at the Knights of Columbus meeting, some members expressing their commitment to the campaign!

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing

Fr. John Byers

Pledges are beginning to come in, 62 pledges totaling \$276,481. Building plans for the new gym/multi-purpose facility continue to be on display in the Gathering Area. Another parish reception was held with an opportunity to hear about varied ways of giving; enthusiasm and excitement continues!

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

This past weekend the campaign co-chairpersons presented their witness and support of the Witness to Hope Campaign at all of the Masses at St. Elizabeth and St. Dominic Chapel. Packets were also available for pick up for those families that had not yet attended a campaign gathering. There are now 68 families that attended a gathering

and they are discerning their decision to support the campaign. The current pledge total is \$36,390 from 8 households.

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

This past weekend the campaign DVD was shown at all of the Masses and packets were also available for pick up for those families that had not yet attended a campaign gathering. There are now 82 families that attended a gathering and they are discerning their decision to support the campaign. The current pledge total is \$10,850 from only 3 households, much work to be done!