



Great News! Congratulations to the entire Diocese of Lansing, Witness to Hope has surpassed its \$65 million goal as of this week. We continue to raise funds at all of the Wave 2 parishes, many of whom are closing in on the parish goals and with Bishop Boyea at the Leadership Gift level to continue to add to the \$10 million needed to fill all of the diocesan case elements. Thanks to all who have worked so hard to get us to this point, but we have much more to do and we look forward to seeing the total funds raised to continue to grow. In addition, we still need to surpass 30% participation at the diocesan level.

Congratulations to the following Pastors and parish communities for exceeding their Witness to Hope campaign goals since our last report. Great job!

Rev. Daniel Kogut and the people of St. Mary Parish, Pinckney

Rev. Joseph Krupp and the people of Sacred Heart Parish, Hudson

Rev. James Lothamer and the people of St. Mary Parish, Morrice

Rev. Kenneth Coughlin and the people of SS. Charles & Helena Parish, Clio and the people of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Otisville

Rev. Timothy Krzyzaniak and the people of St. Catherine Laboure Parish, Concord

These parishes join St. Therese, Lansing who had surpassed goal in our last report.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

*"God is always trying to give good things to us,
but our hands are too full to receive them."*

St. Augustine

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 the opportunity to hear from a great witness talk for the campaign this weekend. As we now there are 62 pledges for a total pledged amount of \$278,145. **Fr. Timothy Nelson** has been very instrumental in the success of the response and enthusiasm for the witness to hope campaign. He is pushing ahead with the lead donor solicitations, and having good progress.

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 generously and joyfully participate in the witness to hope campaign. There was a great response to the witness speaker this past weekend, who is a pillar of community. As of now there are 13 pledges for a total pledged amount of \$46,100. Deacon Stan is pushing ahead with the lead donor solicitations.

At the **Catholic Community of Flint Fr. Tom Firestone** is encouraging all parishioners to reflect deeply on their support of the campaign to drive remarkable participation. 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** continues to invite every parishioner and each household to consider gratitude, joy and love as spiritual considerations for giving. Fr. Phil has led by example from day one with his own personal *best sacrifice* pledge. Parish share funds will drive outreach and evangelization to empower the poor and propagate the Catholic faith in Flint.

Fr. Robert Copeland and **Fr. Todd Koenigsknecht** will remind all parishioners this coming weekend that their submission of a sacrificial gift to the *Witness to Hope* campaign will impact **St. John the Evangelist** in **Fenton** and the wider church for many years. Parish share funds will reduce Debt, upgrade Facilities and make needed improvements to the historic stone Chapel.

Fr. James Mangan will inspire many this coming weekend with his own best sacrifice pledge. The *Witness to Hope* campaign chooses to be transformational for both the wider church and **St. Matthew** in downtown **Flint**. Parish share funds will enhance Evangelization, Education and Charitable Outreach.

At **Christ the King** in Ann Arbor we are conducting Witness Weekend talks this weekend and distributing packets after all Masses. We are continuing with pastor visits and have approximately 30 more families that Fr. Ed Fride is hoping to meet with over the next couple of weeks. Volunteers from the campaign cabinet are beginning follow-up calls with those that Fr. Ed has met with.

Fr. Tim MacDonald distributed packets at **Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center**. We will now begin follow-up with those that are still pending from Pastor visits and the packet distribution. We are at nearly 65% of goal and anticipate a good response from the packet distribution.

Old St. Patrick Parish and Fr. Tom Wasilewski have concluded Pastor visits and we are now following up with those that we met with. Last weekend we distributed packets and are now preparing the balance for mailing. Pledges are approaching the 20% mark of the parish goal.

St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing is continuing to push participation. **Fr. Mark** is following up with lead donors. The campaign cabinet met this week and provided feedback for follow-up weekend which will take place on Dec. 9/10.

St. Therese, Lansing will host follow up weekend this weekend. **Fr. John** is excited that the parish has raised over \$800,000 and is at 174% of its goal.

St. Catherine Laboure, Concord is officially over goal and has raised over \$400,000! **Fr. Tim** is very excited. The committee will host its final meeting soon.

St. Pius X, Flint Township – Fr. Anthony Strouse - Welcome - Bishop Boyea! Bishop Boyea will celebration Mass this weekend to celebrate the progress of the campaign and in anticipation of Participation Weekend December 9 and 10. Many parishioners have made their best sacrificial gifts resulting in \$364,581 in pledges. Fr. Strouse and the campaign cabinet are thankful for the prayers and support from the parishioners.

SS. Charles and Helena, Clio – Fr. Ken Coughlin – Congratulations! Fr. Ken and the Campaign Cabinet celebrate this week reaching and surpassing the goal of \$500,527. Campaign pledges from 239 parishioners total \$589,795. Fr. Ken and the Campaign Cabinet will meet one more time and finalize the follow-up letter and discuss calling parishioners who have yet to pledge to bring participation to 100% or 280 pledges. Thank you to many volunteers for counting the participation weekend pledges.

St. Francis Xavier, Otisville – Fr. Ken Coughlin – Congratulations! Fr. Ken and St. Francis Xavier parishioners are within a whisper of reaching their goal of \$203,246. Last weekend was participation weekend – 76 parishioners have pledged \$196,980. By the time this report is printed, the online gifts are sure to have taken the campaign over goal. Congratulations for an outstanding show of faith.

The Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton - Fr. Andrew Czajkowski and Fr. Bob Bacik. Since the campaign was announced in October, about 1000 packets were distributed at receptions and after Mass. The remaining 1688 packets were mailed this week. Witnesses spoke at Mass last weekend and witnesses will speak again this weekend in anticipation of Participation Weekend. Thank you to parishioners who have made their best sacrificial gift.

St. Isidore, Laingsburg - Fr. Duaine Pamment – Fr. Pamment and the Campaign Cabinet are ready for Participation Weekend. Pledges from 52 total \$129,455 or 69% of goal. Thank you to parishioners for your gifts, pledges and prayers.

Holy Family, Ovid – Fr. Duaine Pamment – Dcn. John, under the direction of Fr. Pamment are also ready for Participation Weekend. Pledges from 26 parishioners total \$75,300 or 68% of goal. Thank you parishioners for your sacrificial gifts and prayers.

St. Mary, Pinckney – Fr. Dan Kogut went against his hunting instincts of patiently waiting in the brush. He went full speed into meeting parishioners for the first time in leadership meetings, hosting in-home gatherings with **Deacon Dan Hall**, and explaining enthusiastically how reducing their current debt will set a good foundation for the future. **Fr. Dan** is excited to announce that the parish is over goal. Follow up will continue at the parish.

Sacred Heart, Hudson – Fr. Joe Krupp devoted a lot of time to the campaign since June. He met with parishioners one-on-one, hosted gatherings, and encouraged his parish passionately from the pulpit. His commitment to the campaign even took him on a two-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land to pray for it's success. **Fr. Joe** is happy to announce that his parish is currently at 111% of goal with many verbal commitments still out. Follow up will continue at the parish.

St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – Fr. Bob Roggenbuck is currently over 30% of goal and is following up with a few leadership level parishioners that could bring them to 50% by this weekend. Participation weekend is this weekend.

St. Mary of Good Counsel, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS continues to have pledges come in. Participation weekend is this weekend and follow up weekends are being planned.

St. Joseph, Adrian –Deacon Leonard Brown continue to push the message of the campaign to the parish. He is encouraging the parishioners to show strong participation in the campaign. **Fr. Joe Krupp** will be assisting with their participation weekend this weekend. A follow up plan is being developed.

Fr. James Lothamer PSS at **St. Mary, Morrice** achieved tremendous success with the *Witness to Hope* campaign. More families continue to discern their gifts at the end of the

year leading into the Advent season. Follow up strategies are being set to help close the gap for remaining families who have not made their gift.

Fr. Jonathan Perrotta at St. Mary, Durand and St. Joseph, Gaines continues to appeal to families to make their decisions of faith. Father hosted two phonathons at the parish to answer any questions families had in relation to *Witness to Hope* and encourage families to bring in their gift to the parish office. This weekend, the parish will be conducting Participation Weekend in hopes to close in on their goal.

Fr. Dwight Ezop at the Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue is putting tremendous energies into making this campaign a success for the benefit of his parishioners. Due to Father's leadership, the parish has achieved 76% of their overall goal from just 105 families. As the parish prepares for Participation Weekend this upcoming weekend, families continue to bring in their decisions to the office to build more campaign momentum.

Fr. Francis George at St. John the Baptist, Howell has mailed out the remaining *Witness to Hope* packets to the families who have not picked up their gift. The parish has achieved \$339,523 from 107 families. Father continues to encourage families to make their prayerful consideration in support of the Campaign as we approach Participation Weekend in two weeks.

St. Casimir, Lansing

Fr. Bill Lugger

Witness To Hope messaging continues at St. Casimir as pledges are coming in. A total of 27 pledges have come in nearly reaching \$50,000.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing

Fr. John Byers

Pledges continue to come in, 93 pledges totaling \$370,281. Building plans for the new gym/multi-purpose facility continue to be on display in the Gathering Area. Follow up phone calls are underway to encourage parishioners to get their pledge cards in.

St. Joseph – Howell

Fr. Dave hosted follow up weekend during Mass this past week with a good response. They are now over 400 gifts and the excitement is building through the entire parish. This weekend, one-last big push will be made and **Fr. Dave** hopes to be over goal by then. They are currently at \$1,505,051

St. Joseph – Dexter

Fr. Brendan and his team hosted participation weekend with a great response, and they are now planning a big follow-up weekend this week. **Fr. Brendan** is following up with any remaining leadership gifts outstanding. They are currently at \$2,548,547

St. Mary – Williamston

Fr. Mark is bust with his team planning for their participation weekend, which will be held this weekend. He hopes to be over goal by the time the dust settles. **Fr. Mark** is continuing his leadership calls and are looking forward to reaching the goal. They are currently at \$ 380,935

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

This weekend is the first participation weekend for the parish. The current pledge total is over \$130,000, just shy of 30% of goal.

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

This weekend is the first participation weekend for the parish. The current pledge total is just over \$176,000, just shy of 20% of the goal, still much work to be done!

St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor has exceeded 50% of their goal with \$4.3 million in pledges from 385 parishioners. All home gatherings have concluded and results from those events continue to come in. **Fr. James Conlon** has scheduled a 2nd participation weekend and leadership meetings are being held with the final group of parishioners. Gifts of stock, IRA distributions and other transfers that have tax advantages are proving very popular with parishioners.