



Witness to Hope continues to move forward and is rapidly closing in on the \$70 million mark. With just a short time to go before Christmas many parishes are working hard to surpass their parish goals.

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

Rev. Mark Rutherford and the parish community of St. Mary, Williamston

Rev. Thomas Firestone & Rev. James Mangan and the parish community of St. Matthew, Flint

Rev. Thomas Firestone and the parishioners of the Catholic Community of Flint

Rev. Dwight Ezop and the people of Catholic Community of St. Mary & St. Ann, Charlotte/Bellevue

Rev. Duaine Pamment and the parish community of St. Isidore, Laingsburg

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

“Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

Luke 21:4

At Christ the King in Ann Arbor we had a very impactful Witness weekend with inspiring talks at all Masses by key volunteers. The parishioners were motivated significantly by those who spoke and we distributed nearly 500 gift request packets...

all remaining packets have been mailed. We are continuing with pastor visits and have approximately 30 more families that **Fr. Ed Fride** is meeting with over the next couple of weeks.

Fr. Tim MacDonald has now mailed all 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 and we are at nearly 76% of goal but are working hard to reach our participation goal as well.

At **St. Patrick Parish**, **Fr. Tom Wasilewski** is continuing Pastor visits and we are now following up with those that we met with. We have now mailed all remaining packets and pledges are approaching the 26% mark of the parish goal.

St. Joseph – Howell

Fr. Dave hosted follow up weekend during Mass this past week with a good response. They are now over 484 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 \$1,539,157

St. Joseph – Dexter

Fr. Brendan and his team hosted follow up weekend with a great response, and they are now planning one last big push with mailings and calls this week. **Fr. Brendan** is also following up with any remaining leadership gifts outstanding. They are currently at \$2,609,572

St. Mary – Williamston

Fr. Mark and his team held their participation weekend this past weekend and congratulations to **Fr. Mark** and the entire parish for achieving the goal. He now hopes to continue to climb to address even more needs at the parish. **Fr. Mark** is continuing his leadership calls. They are currently at \$ 706,725.

Congratulations are in order as the **Catholic Community of Flint and Fr. Tom Firestone** has surpassed its goal. The campaign leadership is encouraging wider 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** is over 75% to goal and continues to invite every household to reflect deeply on a gift to the campaign. 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.

Deacon Terry Carsten and Deacon Dan Medich, Jr. will follow up this weekend at all Masses to encourage those parishioners who have not yet given to *Witness to Hope*. The 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.

Big congratulations to **Fr. James Mangan at St. Matthew** in downtown **Flint** for exceeding their goal. This is truly inspiring and a great testament to Father's leadership and the generosity of those who supported *Witness to Hope*. Parish share funds will enhance Evangelization, Education and Charitable Outreach.

St. Casimir, Lansing

Fr. Bill Lugger

Witness Weekend takes place this weekend. A total of \$77,935 has been pledged by 50 households. Looking forward to great results from Participation Weekend!

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing

Fr. John Byers

Pledges continue to come in, up nearly 20% from last week. A total of \$439,168 has been pledged by 119 households; almost a 30% increase from last week. A Cabinet

meeting was held this week to discuss updates and strategy. Participation Weekend takes place this weekend and follow-up phone calls continue.

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 will be involved in participation weekend, this weekend hoping to have a great response. **Fr. Timothy Nelson** is excited and is motivating the community to meet goal in these next few weeks. As of now there have been 81 pledges for a total of \$316, 465 pledged.

St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti is a blessed community of wonderful people. This weekend the Bishop will be presiding at the Sunday masses, during their participation weekend. **Deacon Stan and Fr. Pieter van Rooyen** are excited to have the Bishop at St. Joseph and hope that this will inspire many parishioners to generously make their sacrificial gift this weekend. As of now there have been 28 pledges for a total of \$108, 800 pledged.

Fr. James Lothamer PSS at St. Mary, Morrice is excited to announce that the parish has reached their goal! To date, the parish has received \$164,020 from 90 families; 104% of their overall goal. Fr. Jim continues to express gratitude to the cabinet, parish leadership teams, and all parishioners who have contributed to a successful campaign.

Fr. Jonathan Perrotta at St. Mary, Durand and St. Joseph, Gaines appealed to families at every mass to participate in the campaign. As a result, the parish has achieved 85% of their overall goal! Father is active in reaching out to families who have not made their pledge to bring in the additional \$50,000 that is needed to get to goal. Father will also be making announcements at Mass to encourage families to get their pledge in.

The **Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue** is over goal! **Fr. Dwight Ezop** held Participation Weekend at each Mass this weekend. As a result, the parish is now 105% of goal from 183 families. Father Dwight will continue to update the parish on further progress with *Witness to Hope* as families bring in new decisions of faith.

Fr. Francis George at St. John the Baptist, Howell continues to encourage families to bring in their decisions of faith in preparation for Participation Weekend. Father will be appealing at each Mass for families to make their best sacrificial gift to *Witness to Hope*. To date, the parish has received \$412,983 from 151 families.

St. Mary, Pinckney – Fr. Dan Kogut continues to encourage participation in the campaign. They are quickly closing in on the 120% mark. An anonymous parishioner has come forward and has offered a \$50,000 match on any new pledges that come in. That match would get them over 120%

Sacred Heart, Hudson – Fr. Joe Krupp is \$2,000 away from 120% of goal. He has been blown away by the generosity of his parishioners as well as from visitors to the parish. The parish is finalizing the plans for the flooring and they will have enough money from the campaign to cover the cost.

St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – Fr. Bob Roggenbuck had a good participation weekend this past weekend. They are now over 50% of goal and there are still some leadership gifts pending. We are evaluating a follow up plan going forward.

St. Mary of Good Counsel, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS has pledges still coming in. They had participation weekend this past weekend. They are now over \$100,000.

St. Joseph, Adrian –Deacon Leonard Brown had participation weekend this past weekend. **Fr. Joe Krupp** assisted as well on Sunday. They had a good response and are now over 30% of their goal. We will be coming up with a plan going forward.

St. Pius X, Flint Township – Fr. Anthony Strouse - Participation Weekend is this weekend. Fr. Strouse, Cabinet members and St. Pius Staff are thankful for the over 125 pledges received to date and excited that with this progress the school boiler system will be replaced. With a strong participation weekend, the second element of the case, to attach to Flint Township Water, may become a reality. May the Holy Spirit fill the hearts of the faithful to give their best sacrificial gift this weekend.

SS. Charles and Helena, Clio – Fr. Ken Coughlin – Congratulations to Fr. Ken, the Campaign Cabinet, the Staff and Parishioners of SS. Charles and Helena as the parish has surpassed 120% of goal with more than \$614,000 in sacrificial pledges. The Cabinet is eager to see those pledges increase even more as they made in excess of 150 phone calls to parishioners who received their pledge packets after Mass or at a reception to encourage their participation. Many parishioners responded that they would be pledging. Great faith and courage to make those phone calls.

St. Francis Xavier, Otisville – Fr. Ken Coughlin – Continued Congratulations to Fr. Ken and St. Francis Xavier parishioners as they exceed their goal with pledges totaling \$217,940 and still growing. Congratulations for an outstanding journey of faith.

The Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton - Fr. Andrew Czajkowski and Fr. Bob Bacik. This weekend is participation weekend. Fr. Bob has been working tirelessly over the past weeks to make contact with parishioners to seek their prayerful consideration of a leadership gift. The Ushers are trained and ready to assist Deacon Dan with guiding the parishioners through the participation weekend pledge card. Come Holy Spirit, Come.

St. Isidore, Laingsburg - Fr. Duaine Pamment – Congratulations! Fr. Pamment and the St. Isidore parishioners have exceeded the goal this week. Pledges from 111 parishioners total \$222,840 or 119% of goal. Fr. Pamment and the Campaign Cabinet are so thankful for the sacrificial gifts and pledges. All Praise and Glory to God.

Holy Family, Ovid – Fr. Duaine Pamment – Congratulations to Fr. Pamment, Deacon John and the Holy Family parishioners. Pledges total \$102,240 from 67 parishioners which over 100% participation of their participation goal. This weekend, Dcn. John will share the good news, give thanks and encourage last minute pledges to help reach the goal. Monies raised to date will support maintenance and upgrades throughout the parish. Blessings and thanks to all parishioners who have pledged.

St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor is having their 2nd participation weekend as they work hard to surpass \$5 million by Monday, December 11th. **Fr. James Conlon** has set an interim goal of 200 more pledges by December 31 to bring the parish to \$6 million,

representing 80% of the goal. In anticipation of end-of-year stock gifts and IRA distributions and the parish office will be open on December 27, 28, and 29.

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

Fr. Dan and the campaign leadership team held their first Participation Weekend this past weekend and collected pledges totaling close to 50% of their goal. The new pledge total has increased to over \$380,939, 80% of the target goal from 198 families! The plan is to strongly encourage participation over the next two weeks and year-end giving.

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

Fr. Francis and the campaign leadership team held their first Participation Weekend this past weekend and collected pledges totaling close to 10% of their goal. The new pledge total has increased to over \$341,072, 31% of the target goal from 125 families! The plan is to strongly encourage participation, conduct a more formal follow-up participation weekend this weekend and encourage year-end giving.