



Witness to Hope continues to move forward and is rapidly approaching the \$75 million mark. With just a short time to go before Christmas many parishes are working hard to surpass their parish goals. Next week will be the final report prior to Christmas. Follow-up work with Wave 2 parishes will continue into January and February before the campaign closes active fund-raising.

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

Rev. David Speicher and the parish community of St. Joseph, Howell

Rev. Mark Ingot, Rev. Ryan Reilly and Rev. Gary Koeingsknecht and the parish community of St. Thomas Aquinas/St. John, East Lansing

Rev. Duaine Pamment and the parish community of Holy Family, Ovid

Rev. Daniel Wheeler and the parish community of St. Elizabeth, Tecumseh

Rev. Steven Mattson and the parish community of Resurrection parish, Lansing

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

“What is the chief end of giving? To glorify God and be with Him forever...”

Dennis Bakke

Holy Family, Ovid – Fr. Duaine Pamment – Congratulations! Fr. Pamment has brought the Holy Family parish to their goal. Thank you, Fr. Pamment for your commitment to the campaign and prayers. A very generous leadership gift was received this weekend. Pledges’ totaling over \$121,801 from 71 parishioners is a great example of prayer and faith in action. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

St. Isidore, Laingsburg - Fr. Duaine Pamment – Fr. Pamment is very thankful for the campaign cabinet and parishioners for supporting the Witness to Hope Campaign. Additional pledges bring the total pledged to \$224,840 or 120% of the goal. The parishioners have shown a strong sense of faith and love and appreciation for Fr. Pamment. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

St. Pius X, Flint Township – Fr. Anthony Strouse - Participation Weekend went very well, with 45 new pledges. A total of 180 parishioners have pledged \$459,341. Thank you, parishioners, for your sacrificial gifts.

SS. Charles and Helena, Clio – Fr. Ken Coughlin – Fr. Ken and the Campaign Cabinet will celebrate the success of the Witness to Hope Campaign at SS Charles and Helena. 274 parishioners pledged \$631,656 or 126% of the goal. Thank you, parishioners for your faith and generosity to the Witness to Hope campaign.

St. Francis Xavier, Otisville – Fr. Ken Coughlin – Fr. Ken and St. Francis Xavier parishioners continue to celebrate the success of their campaign as 99 parishioners have pledged \$228,840. Congratulations and thank you parishioners for your support and faith in the campaign.

The Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton - Fr. Andrew Czajkowski and Fr. Bob Bacik. Participation weekend went very well. Over 200 parishioners pledged in excess of \$300,000 last weekend. With more to come, the **St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament** campaign will continue into the New Year. Have a blessed and Merry Christmas.

St. Thomas Aquinas/St. John, East Lansing has exceeded its 4.3 million goal! **Fr. Mark, Fr. Gary & Fr. Ryan** are very excited and eager to begin next steps. The campaign cabinet met for the final time last night and discussed the idea of a stewardship committee.

St. Catherine Laboure, Concord is in the process of sending the follow up letter. **Fr. Tim** had his final meeting with the campaign director and is excited to begin these projects.

St. Therese, Lansing has raised \$934,125 and reached 188% of goal! **Fr. John** and the cabinet are amazed! This photo is of the campaign cabinet that was critical to the great success at St. Therese.



At **Christ the King** in Ann Arbor we are still visiting parishioners and will for at least the next few days before Christmas. All packets have been mailed to homes and many are beginning to come in. We are seeing a significant increase in pledges and leaders and volunteers are making reminder calls.

Fr. Tim MacDonald is conducting Participation Weekend at **Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center** as we have reached the 76% threshold for the campaign. We anticipate reaching our financial goal this week but still working hard to reach our parish 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. Participation weekend will be conducted January 6 and 7, 2018.

St. Casimir, Lansing, Fr. Bill Lugger

Participation Weekend took place last weekend resulting in an additional \$20,750 from 15 pledges. 73 households have pledged an overall total of \$108,225. Follow up letters go out this week.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing, Fr. John Byers

Participation Weekend took place this weekend at Immaculate Heart of Mary, resulting in \$369,929 from 140 pledges, which now total \$861,063 (including a \$100,000 challenge pledge) from 273 households; follow up phone calls proved to be effective!

Highlighting the weekend was a Witness To Hope presentation at a meeting of the African community following the 11:30 mass, which was translated into the Swahili and Burundi languages. Many questions were asked to gain understanding of both the diocesan and parish case elements, as well as the concept of pledging to a campaign. Many stood and spoke in their native language about gratitude to God for the many blessings they have received, and stated why they were pledging to the campaign. Follow up letters will go out this week.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint , Fr. Paul Donnelly (Wave 1)

A follow up Participation Weekend was conducted last weekend resulting in 41 new pledges of \$74,695. Total pledged to Witness To Hope at OLG is now \$313,660; Fr. Paul is very hopeful that the parish will reach its goal of \$400,000! Follow up letters will go out this week.

St. Joseph – Howell

Fr. Dave and team have met their obligation to their matching gift opportunity and have exceeded their parish goal. The parish has raised \$1,602,502 from 512 families and more gifts will be received over the next week or so. Congratulations to **Fr. Dave** and the entire St. Joseph, Howell community. Great Job!

St. Joseph – Dexter

Fr. Brendan and his team have sent out their follow up letter to fellow parishioners who have yet to invest in the Witness to Hope/Stairway to Unite campaign. They are now prepared for one last big push with calls this week. **Fr. Brendan** is also following up with any remaining leadership gifts outstanding. They are currently at \$2,652,213

St. Mary – Williamston

Fr. Mark and his team are planning follow up weekend this week, and are looking forward to continue the great response from the parish. 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 \$ 743,525

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 a great participation weekend. Sacred Heart community surpassed their personal goal. **Fr. Timothy Nelson** is excited and is motivating the community to see if they can meet goal by this weekend. As of now there have been 218 pledges for a total of \$644,144 pledged.

St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti is a great community of wonderful people. This weekend the community was blessed to have Bishop Boyea presided at the Sunday masses, during their participation weekend. **Deacon Stan and Fr. Pieter van Rooyen** did a great job, and hope that the Bishops visit will inspire many parishioners to generously make their sacrificial gift this week. As of now there have been 62 pledges for a total of \$166,353 pledged.

St. Mary, Morrice continues to achieve great success in their Campaign. **Fr. James Lothamer PSS** is preparing to send out the follow up mailing out to families who have not yet participated in *Witness to Hope*. To date, the parish has raised 105% of their overall goal.

Fr. Jonathan Perrotta at **St. Mary, Durand** and **St. Joseph, Gaines** conducted follow up weekend at the parish. As a result, the parish is at 88% of their goal. Fr. Jon continues to follow up with phone calls to families who have not yet contributed to *Witness to Hope*. Parishioners are excited to see the progress in the Campaign as the parish approaches their goal.

The **Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue** continues to celebrate their tremendous success in the Campaign! **Fr. Dwight Ezop** will be sending out follow up mail to families still considering their best sacrificial gift to *Witness to Hope*. To date, the parish has achieved 109% of their goal!

St. John the Baptist, Howell held participation weekend this past weekend. The parish responded generously as nearly \$115,000 came in from 87 families. **Fr. Francis George** has raised 65% of the overall goal and continues to encourage families to make their Decision of Faith to *Witness to Hope*.

Big congratulations to **Fr. Tom Firestone** and **the Catholic Community of Flint** for exceeding their goal. This is truly inspiring and a great testament to **Father Tom's** leadership and the generosity of those who supported *Witness to Hope*. 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 90% to goal and continues to invite every household to reflect deeply on a gift to the campaign. Fr. Phil has inspired many parishioners 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.

Motivated staff who have already pledged at **St. John the Evangelist in Fenton** are hopeful that parishioners who have not yet given to *Witness to Hope* will make their 5-year pledge soon. The campaign will impact the church for many years. Parish share funds will reduce Debt, upgrade Facilities and make needed improvements to the historic stone Chapel.

Fr. James Mangan at **St. Matthew** in downtown **Flint** continues to encourage wider participation after exceeding goal. **Father James** is so grateful for those who supported *Witness to Hope* so generously. Parish share funds will enhance Evangelization, Education and Charitable Outreach.

St. Mary, Pinckney – Fr. Dan Kogut is at 120% of goal on pledges alone. There was a match challenge to the parish that they met within 2 weeks. With that match the parish is over \$1 million and above 125%. Pledges are still coming in. The cabinet celebrated this week and follow up letters will be going out soon.

Sacred Heart, Hudson – Fr. Joe Krupp is now over 120% of goal and there are still pledges coming in. The parish is blown away at their success and they look forward to restoring their floors in the very near future.

St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – Fr. Bob Roggenbuck is now over 60% of goal. A follow up plan is still being developed.

St. Mary of Good Counsel, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS still has some pledges coming in. Follow up letters will be going out soon.

St. Joseph, Adrian –Deacon Leonard Brown and Fr. Joe Krupp encouraged the parish to participate in the campaign 2 weekends ago. This past weekend they brought in over 20 new pledges for over \$50,000. The parish is closing in on 50% of goal. **Deacon Leonard** is planning on doing at least one more follow up weekend in January.

St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor has broken the \$5 million/500 pledges milestone. Now **Fr. James Conlon** has begun a series of targeted emails to his parishioners urging those who have not yet pledged to respond to the December theme: *Now Is The Time*. The interim goal is 600 families pledging \$6 million by December 31st. In anticipation of end-of-year stock gifts campaign donations, 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 second Participation Weekend this past weekend and collected pledges totaling close to 20% of their goal. Congratulations to Fr. Dan and the entire parish for reaching their goal! The new pledge total has increased to over 100% of their target goal, \$478,299, 100.4% of the target goal from 262 families! The plan to encourage participation will continue throughout the next couple weeks.

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

Fr. Francis and the campaign leadership team held their second Participation Weekend this past weekend and collected pledges totaling close to 25% of their goal. The new pledge total has increased to \$600,705, 54% of the target goal from 228 families! The plan to encourage participation will continue throughout the next couple weeks.