



This newsletter will be the last full wave newsletter for Witness to Hope. Moving forward we will continue to highlight news only from parishes that are still actively fund raising. We hope everyone has enjoyed keeping up the exciting news from parishes in each wave.

Witness to Hope has passed two significant milestones this week! Over \$76 million has been raised and the overall participation rate in the Diocese of Lansing is now over 30%. Congratulations to the pastors and donors who have made these two milestones a reality. We know these milestones will continue to be surpassed over the few weeks.

The Witness to Hope team from Greater Mission has departed the diocese for the Christmas holiday. A smaller team will return in January to complete follow-up at several parishes, which are still raising funds and to complete the Leadership Gift effort with Bishop Boyea. The entire Greater Mission team wishes to express their deepest gratitude for the having been able to serve the Diocese of Lansing. We also wish to express our sincerest and warmest thanks to Bishop Boyea, the pastors and people of this wonderful diocese for great love and support we have received over these many months. You welcomed us and made us part of your faith family and we will never forget what a great experience this has been!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

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

Very Rev. Timothy MacDonald and the people of Our Lady of Fatima parish, Michigan Center

Rev. Brendan Walsh and the people of St. Joseph parish, Dexter

Rev. Timothy Nelson and the people of St. Mary, Star of the Sea parish, Jackson

Deacon Stan Kukla and Fr. Pieter van Rooyen and the people of St. Joseph parish, Ypsilanti

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

*"Born in a stable, cradled in a manger...He lived for us, and He died for us.
What can we, in return give to Him!"*

St. Joseph – Howell

Fr. Dave and team have met their obligation to their matching gift opportunity, and with a great gift from the Knights Council they have met their goal of \$1,600,000. They are now at 520 gifts and \$1,638,504 in gifts. Congratulations **Fr. Dave** and everyone at St. Joseph parish.

St. Joseph – Dexter

Fr. Brendan and his team have been busy with several different follow up plans, and with the success of those plans they have achieved their goal of \$2,750,000. They are now at 485 gifts and \$2,752,543 congrats to **Fr. Brendan** and the entire St. Joseph Parish in Dexter.

St. Mary – Williamston

Fr. Mark and his team are continue to grow their gifts through a great follow up effort, and are looking forward to continued 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 \$ 796,090.

St. Mary, Pinckney – Fr. Dan Kogut has surpassed the \$1 million mark and is now at 132% of goal. The parish and staff are thrilled by the support the campaign has received are excited for how this will help reduce the debt at the parish.

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 is overwhelmed that the parish is closing in on \$200,000. Although not at goal, this is considered a big win for the parish

considering the uncertainty this year. A big thank you to **Fr. Joe Krupp** as well for his help and support of their campaign.

St. Mary Star of The Sea, in Jackson, composed of Stanislaus Kostka, and the Community of Sacred Heart, is celebrating with joy the wonderful generosity of all their parishioners. All three communities had a great participation that lead to their success. The Sacred Heart community surpassed their goal of \$30,000 and presently has raised \$53,000 and counting with about half off their community participating. **Fr. Timothy Nelson** is excited, grateful and very motivated to keep the communities trying to reach bonus goal. The current standing of the campaign is 286 pledges for a total of \$828,516 pledged, which takes them over their base goal of \$703, 727. Congratulation St. Mary way to go...

St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti is a great community of wonderful people, who are overjoyed that they have met their based goal. **Deacon Stan and Fr. Pieter van Rooyen** did a great job, motivating and inviting the parishioner's to be active participants of the campaign. The both of them are also very grateful for the abundant generosity of the parishioners. The current standing of the campaign is 97 pledges for a total of \$248,033 pledged, which takes them over their base goal of \$217, 052. Congratulation St. Joseph way to go...

At **Christ the King** in Ann Arbor we are receiving many gifts as all parishioners have now received their packets. Fr. Ed will continue with some visits after the Christmas break. We look forward to the increase as the year-end giving continues.

Fr. Tim MacDonald conducted Participation Weekend at **Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center** and we have surpassed our goal and gifts continue to come in. The generosity of those that have pledged is simply amazing and we pray that our participation will also continue to increase as the year ends. The follow-up letter will be sent out after the Christmas break to invite others not yet heard from to participate.

At **St. Patrick Parish**, **Fr. Tom Wasilewski** is continuing with Pastor visits and we are now following up with those that we met with. Fr. Tom is communicating through the bulletin and from the pulpit to encourage more participation. Pledges are beginning to

increase in number and we have surpassed the \$200,000 level from only 49 gifts. Participation weekend will be conducted January 6 and 7, 2018.

St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor has surpassed the \$5 million mark and thanks to the generosity of 536 families they have \$5.4 million in pledges putting them at 68% of the overall goal of \$8 million. **Fr. James Conlon** is hoping that 64 more families will help get the parish to the next milestone...600 families pledging \$6 million by December 31. In anticipation of end-of-year stock gifts and IRA distributions the parish office will be open on December 27, 28, and 29.

St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing has raised over 5.3 million! **Fr. Mark, Fr. Gary & Fr. Ryan** continue follow up on major gifts and will try to schedule more leadership meetings at the start of the year. The priests celebrated with some late night champagne.



St. Therese, Lansing has reached 189% of goal! **Fr. John** has stated that this campaign was beyond all expectations!

St. Catherine Laboure, Concord has raised over \$430,000. **Fr. Tim** is excited to begin these projects.

Fr. Tom Firestone and **the Catholic Community of Flint** continue to encourage wider participation after exceeding goal. **Father Tom** is so grateful for those who supported *Witness to Hope* so generously. 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 at 95% 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 and competent staff at **St. John the Evangelist in Fenton** continues to encourage parishioners to make their 5-year pledge to *Witness to Hope*. 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. Casimir, Lansing

Fr. Bill Lugg

Pledges continue to follow Participation Weekend with an overall total of \$124,565 that has been pledged by 95 households. Follow up letters will soon be in the mail.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing

Fr. John Byers

Pledges continue to come in from Participation Weekend, resulting in new total of \$897,657 pledged from 298 households. Follow up continues as excitement for the new gym/multi-purpose facility continues to grow.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint (Wave 1)

Fr. Paul Donnelly

Pledges continue to come in at Our Lady of Guadalupe, now totaling \$316,755, just shy of 80% of their goal, from 121 households! Follow up letters will soon go out.

St. Pius X, Flint Township – Fr. Anthony Strouse - Fr. Strouse and St. Pius X parishioners have completed active campaigning with a very strong finish. 198

parishioners have pledged \$474,617. **Fr. Strouse** campaigned strongly and found great support among dedicated and lifelong parishioners. Many blessings to every parishioner who responded and supported the campaign.

SS. Charles and Helena, Clio – Fr. Ken Coughlin – Fr. Ken and the Campaign Cabinet celebrated the great success of the Witness to Hope Campaign at SS Charles and Helena. The overwhelming support of the campaign, as pledges are still being made, 289 parishioners pledged \$656,326 or 131% of the goal. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

St. Francis Xavier, Otisville – Fr. Ken Coughlin – Fr. Ken and St. Francis Xavier parishioners continue to celebrate the success of their campaign as 104 parishioners have pledged \$234,040. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton - Fr. Andrew Czajkowski and Fr. Bob Bacik. Fr. Andrew and Fr. Bob continue to invite parishioners to pledges. Pledges from 453 parishioners total \$790,492. **St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament** campaign will continue into the New Year. 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. Fr. Pamment and the parishioners pledged \$224,840 or 120% of the goal. All active campaign activities have concluded. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Holy Family, Ovid – Fr. Duaine Pamment – Fr. Pamment and Dcn. John wish to thank each parishioner who supported the Witness to Hope campaign. Pledges totaling over \$121,801 from 71 parishioners are a great example of prayer and faith in action. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

St. Mary, Morrice is in the beginning stages of looking to purchase their new boiler as a result of a successful campaign. **Fr. James Lothamer PSS** is using the advent season to express his gratitude to the parish congregation as we await the coming of Christ.

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 89% of their goal. Fr. Jon will continue to make updates in the parish bulletin. Families will be encouraged to bring their gifts in before the end of 2017 tax year.

The **Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue** is over continues to celebrate their tremendous success in the Campaign! **Fr. Dwight Ezop** is communicating to the parish how beneficial the surplus the funds raised will be to help with needed repairs and upkeep.

Fr. Francis George at **St. John the Baptist, Howell** continues to lead fundraising efforts in the parish. Father Francis has been able to raise 76% of their overall goal. Father is excited for more leadership gifts to be brought in at year end. The campaign cabinet is eager for more gifts to come in as the new year begins!

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

Fr. Dan continues to encourage participation from his parishioners. The parish has received 41% participation from their 692 households. The new pledge total increased this past week \$30,000 to the new total of \$511,571, 107% of the target goal from 287 families!

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

Fr. Francis continues to encourage participation from his parishioners. The parish has received only 15% participation from their 1,934 households, well below the diocesan average of 30%. Great news, there is so much more potential at St. Andrew's and they are tracking very well from the 286 families that have made a gift and/or pledge. The new pledge total increased \$100,000 this past week. The new pledge total is currently \$707,113, 65% of the target goal!