



This is our first update for 2017. Our team continues to work with several of the Pilot Parishes that are completing their follow-up work as they strive to reach their goals. We anticipate that several more Pilot Parishes will reach goal this month. Work has begun with the Winter Wave of parishes. Twenty-four (24) of the remaining 65 parishes will be conducting their campaigns in this wave with total goals of over \$23 million.

This week we have an abbreviated weekly update as parish leaders and campaign staff begin the organizing process. Next week will be the first full report of parish news. Campaign Progress reports of gifts will begin in another few weeks as parishes begin the leadership gift phase of the campaign. We will continue to report progress of the Pilot Parishes for the next several weeks until we close all of these campaigns. Thanks to all who have been working so hard to make the campaign a success.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Bishop Boyea

The Campaign Team joins in prayer with everyone in the diocese for the speedy recovery of Bishop Boyea from his recent back surgery. We look forward to his return to the campaign trail and to his joyful leadership of the Witness to Hope Campaign.

Parish News

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

Sir Winston Churchill

St. Joseph, St. Johns has identified potential steering committee members. Engagement visits will begin next week and the campaign calendar is finalized. **Fr. Mike** is excited to begin meeting with parishioners.

St. Mary, Westphalia is in the process of finalizing their case elements and a calendar has been drafted. **Fr. Eric** has identified the potential steering committee. He is eager and excited to meet with parishioners. Engagement visits should begin next week.

St. Peter, Eaton Rapids will begin this week. **Fr. George** is going to learn about the campaign and discuss potential case elements and cost estimates.

Fr. Michael O'Brien has drafted the **St. Joseph, Owosso** parish case to make upgrades to the church vestibule/entry, church lighting, church parking, add accessible bathrooms and divert water to storm sewers. At **St. Paul, Owosso** **Fr. Mike** has drafted the parish case to add new lighting above the altar, replenish both parish savings and the school endowment.

St. Michael in Grand Ledge is off and running. **Fr. Jim Eisele** has already conducted informational meetings with his staff, Parish Council, and Finance Council. The parish has already received \$34,000 in commitments toward its goal of \$985,189. The parish has submitted its use of parish funds for approval.

Fr. Klein at **St. Gerard in Lansing** has already submitted and received approval of its parish case. **Fr. Klein** has identified Announcement Weekend, is in the final solicitations for members of his Campaign Team, and has blocked time over the next four weeks to conduct individual visits.

Most Holy Trinity in Fowler has identified its campaign elements of renovation of the stained glass windows, repair of parking lot, improvements in the parish Activity Center, and increasing functional accessibility to the parish office. **Fr. Dennis Howard** is recruiting his Campaign Team leadership.