



Pilot Parish and Winter Wave parishes continue to actively participate in the Witness to Hope effort. Winter Wave parishes are continuing leadership recruitment, some early lead gift requests and some early meetings. Things are going well and the weather is cooperating! Please continue to pray for the success of the campaign.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

*For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
- St. Francis of Assisi*

Dedicated volunteers at **St. Jude in DeWitt** continue to reach out to fellow parishioners to invite their participation in the *Witness to Hope* campaign. Through the generosity of just under 400 families the parish has nearly reached the mark of \$2,250,000 but we are optimistic about reaching the \$2.5 million challenge goal soon.

Pledges continue to come in at **Queen of the Miraculous Medal** and we have exceeded the \$3.25 million mark. The renovation of the lower level of the Church will be commencing in February with the other major projects scheduled for the summer.

Campaign preparation continues at **St. John the Evangelist Parish** in **Jackson**. Pastor **Fr. Chas Canoy** is leading the recruitment of volunteer leaders and many have already agreed to serve.

St. Mary Student Parish has begun the process of educating the parish families and students to the elements of the *Witness to Hope* campaign case throughout February with bulletin inserts and communications to inform and educate. Plans and timelines are being constructed to coincide with the University student spring schedules to maximize attendance at parish gatherings.

Fr. Bosco has returned from his trip to India and we are moving forward in finishing up the preparatory phase projects for **St. Mary's in Manchester**. Volunteer leaders are being recruited and plans are underway for solicitation to begin with leadership donors in the latter part of February.

St. Patrick – Brighton: **Fr. Karl Pung** held the first Cabinet meeting this week and everyone is very excited to begin educating the parish. The Parish and Finance council both have attended the campaign orientation and are excited about what the campaign may bring. **Fr. Karl** has begun leadership calls and should see great results in the coming weeks. Announcement weekend is approaching quickly.

St. Agnes – Fowlerville: **Fr. Nate Sokol** and team have held the first cabinet meeting and announcement weekend is in February. The Finance and Parish councils have been reviewing the CASE and are in support of the parish elements and the entire campaign.

St. Augustine – Howell: **Fr. Gregg Pleiness** and team have approved the CASE and roster. The cabinet held its meeting this week and are continuing to develop plans to move forward and are in preparation for announcement weekend in February. All reception dates have been set and hosts recruited. **Fr. Gregg** will begin leadership calls within the next few weeks.

St. Joseph, St. Johns has received a brochure draft. **Fr. Mike** will begin meeting with parishioners next week. Donor research is ongoing.

St. Mary, Westphalia has begun engagement visits and solicitations. **Fr. Eric** has made his generous gift to the campaign and is very enthusiastic to meet with parishioners. Donor research will be finalized soon.

St. Peter, Eaton Rapids will finalize their campaign calendar this week. **Fr. George** has returned from vacation and will finalize his steering committee. He is also preparing for a joint council meeting next week.

St. Robert Bellarmine, Flushing continue Pre-Campaign activities. **Fr. Reigle's** introduction of the *Witness to Hope* campaign to the Ministry Leadership was well-received. The campaign cabinet and volunteer recruiting will continue next week. The Campaign will be announced at all Masses this weekend.

Good Shepherd, Montrose donor research will continue next week and **Fr. Reigle** will begin recruiting the campaign cabinet soon.

St. Mary, Mt Morris will finalize the campaign cabinet after **Fr. Nenneau** returns from vacation next week. The Campaign Chair is very enthusiastic about the campaign and the staff are looking forward to assisting with the campaign.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Lansing continues their preparation for the campaign. We are finalizing the parish case statements and are on track to begin our accelerated campaign. **Fr. Joseph Kim** has been helpful cleaning up his parish roster as well as identifying active members of the community.

Holy Redeemer, Burton, held its first Campaign Cabinet meeting on Tuesday January 31. **Fr. Steve Anderson** recruited volunteers representing a wide range of experience and ministry work. Announcement Weekend has been set for the last weekend in February.

Fr. Steve Mattson, Church of the Resurrection, Lansing is conducting a combined campaign and has received positive, early support from parishioners who completed surveys and attended Town Hall meetings. They will begin leadership meetings in the weeks ahead.

Saint Gerard in Lansing has received its first gifts that total \$25,000. **Fr. John Klein** met with more than 20 families individually concerning their support last week. He asked for decisions by Feb. 8. While Father is on holiday this week, invitations have already been sent for an All Ministry reception to be held next week, along with three other group presentations. The parish is also making preparations to welcome **Bishop Boyea** to campaign receptions March 5.

At **Saint Michael in Grand Ledge** early gifts total \$49,000. **Fr. Eisele** is sending out more than 30 invitations to individual solicitations. Additionally, he has secured host commitments for in-home receptions from four families and hosts for another four receptions at the parish. A presentation to the Senior Group is scheduled for Wednesday at noon. **Fr. Eisele** will be on holiday from the end of this week until Feb. 15, with appointment scheduling ongoing during his absence.

Fr. Dennis Howard at **Most Holy Trinity in Fowler** has set Announcement Weekend for Feb. 11&12. The balance of the campaign timeline is being finalized.

Fr. Michael O'Brien and staff at **St. Paul, Owosso** are preparing for their All-In ministry meeting on Sunday, February 5th between the Masses. Co-Chair candidate invitations for the **St Paul** Cabinet have been sent. At **St. Joseph, Owosso** **Fr. Mike** has put the final touches on the elements for their parish case for support.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint: Fr. Paul Donnelly and **Deacon Omar Odette** are gathering photos for their parish brochure and names are being surfaced for the

Cabinet. **Fr. Paul** is gearing up for meetings with lead donors that will soon be scheduled. Bilingual materials are in preparation.

Cristo Rey, Lansing: Fr. Fred Thelen held his first Cabinet meeting this week, generating a lot of excitement about the idea of significantly reducing debt through *Witness to Hope*. The campaign timeline is being finalized and leadership donors have been identified.

Immaculate Conception, Milan: Fr. Vincent Van Doan and the campaign leadership held their second cabinet meeting this past week to finalize the campaign timeline. The team will be preparing for their announcement weekend and All Ministry meeting for early March.

St. Mary, Chelsea: Fr. Bill Turner met with parish leadership that will be part of the campaign cabinet to review the campaign plan. **Fr. Bill** and his staff finalized the campaign preparation materials and timeline this past week.

St. Joseph Shrine, Brooklyn: Fr. Bob Pienta met with members of the Parish Council and Finance Council this past week to present the campaign and introduce campaign leadership. They are in the process of finalizing the campaign timeline.