



Congratulations to Fr. Roy Horning, his staff, parish lay leaders and the parishioners of Holy Rosary Parish, Flint as they have surpassed their \$600,000 goal. Over the past few weeks they, along with several other parishes in the Pilot Wave have continued to work hard to reach their goals. We are thrilled to report on *their* success. The Winter Wave parishes continue to organize and in some parishes solicitations have begun. Next weeks report will show the first fund-raising totals from these 24 parishes.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

"Do not forget thin sowing means thin reaping; the more you sow, the more you reap. Each one of you should give what he has decided in his own mind, not grudgingly or because he is made to, for God loves a cheerful giver...And there is no limit to the blessings which God can send you..." 2 Corinthians 9:6

Congratulations to **Fr. Roy Horning** and his team at **Holy Rosary, Flint**. The parish has exceeded its goal. Today, the parish has 218 commitments for \$608,906! The successful solicitation allows the parish to fully retire its old debt, thus freeing up \$17,000/mo in offertory to address other ministry needs.

Early gifts at **St. Gerard, Lansing** has raised \$91,600 toward the parish goal of \$2,428,683. **Fr. John Klein** is continuing to make individual calls. He is also sending out a personal invitation encouraging every family to attend one of the upcoming receptions, including March 5 when Bishop Boyea will attend morning receptions and celebrate Mass.

At **Saint Michael in Grand Ledge** early gifts total \$49,000. **Fr. Eisele** is back from holiday and following up on invitations for personal visits and small group gatherings.

Fr. Dennis Howard at **Most Holy Trinity in Fowler** held announcement weekend. **Fr. Howard** spoke at all Masses providing an overview of the campaign, and a personal appeal that everyone attend a reception. He is currently making calls to set individual

solicitations with leadership donors.

Campaign preparation continues at **St. John the Evangelist Parish in Jackson**. **Fr. Chas Canoy** is recruiting volunteer leaders and beginning the process of lining up visits with parish families to engage their support of the Witness to Hope campaign. Bulletin inserts are informing the families of the Diocesan elements of the campaign.

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. The campaign team has reviewed parish lists and we are focusing on small major donor meetings with pastor **Fr. Ben Hawley** to begin in early March.

St. Mary in Manchester is officially underway and we are recruiting volunteer leaders and scheduling our major campaign events while we wait on the completion of the parish brochure and the master parish list. **Fr. Bosco** is beginning to recruit our leadership team and campaign cabinet while we line up our lead and major gift visits.

The **St. Jude, Dewitt** campaign cabinet is finishing up reminder calls to those who have not yet made their gifts to the campaign while we prepare for the follow-up mailing. The push is on to reach the challenge goal of \$2.5 million by encouraging more participation as we have at least another 150 regular parish givers yet to hear from.

St. Patrick – Brighton, Fr. Karl is holding announcement weekend this weekend at all Masses and everyone is very excited to begin to educate 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 the leadership calls and should see great results in the coming weeks. All dates have been established and the campaign is moving forward.

St. Agnes – Fowlerville, Fr. Nate and team have held the first cabinet meeting and announcement weekend is this weekend. 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 and team have met to plan the In-home receptions and the host are looking forward to their events. Announcement weekend is this weekend. All reception dates have been set and hosts recruited. **Fr. Gregg** will begin leadership calls within the next few weeks.

St. Joseph, St. Johns is beginning to gain momentum. **Fr. Mike** has five lay leaders who will serve on the steering committee. He has meetings with additional lay leaders next week. Announcement weekend will occur next weekend.

St. Mary, Westphalia has reached 13% of its goal thus far. **Fr. Eric** has solicited the entire steering committee and is beginning to contact top prospects. The steering committee had a productive meeting and will create a parish based FAQ for the campaign.

St. Peter, Eaton Rapids has received its merged list. Research has begun. **Fr. George** will begin engagement visits with his steering committee next week. The joint council meeting was very positive and the lay leaders are optimistic.

At **St. Paul, Owosso** **Fr. Dieudonne Ntakarutimana, Parochial Vicar** is meeting with motivated parishioners for conversations about why this campaign is so important and to ask them for their early support.

At **St. Joseph** in **Owosso** **Fr. Mike O'Brien** and staff are preparing for the All-In ministry gathering immediately following Vigil Mass on Saturday, February 25.

Cristo Rey Parish, Lansing is gearing up for Announcement Weekend this Saturday and Sunday. Bilingual bulletin inserts, as well as *Witness to Hope* banner have been prepared in both English and Spanish.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Flint held its first Cabinet meeting, bringing everyone up to speed on the campaign activities and the impact the ultimate reduction of debt will have on the parish. The timeline was established with Announcement Weekend planned for February 26.

At **Holy Family, Grand Blanc** 625 families have pledged and **Msgr. Jerry** and **Fr. Gary** continue to push hard for their participation goal of 700 families. **Fr. Gary** received a \$10,000 gift from the special request he did to the 4 area funeral homes, and he expects 3 responses in the next few weeks.

Fr. Steve Anderson at **Holy Redeemer in Burton** has his All- In Ministry meeting coming up on February 23rd, followed by Announcement Weekend Feb 25-26. Campaign funds will support 3 parish projects, including a new Gathering Space.

A combined campaign with a goal of \$2.1 million is underway at **Resurrection, Lansing**. **Fr. Steve Mattson** and his parishioners have decided that their capital

improvement funding needs to address student safety, therefore a plan to connect their 2 school buildings is a top priority for Witness to Hope gifts.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Lansing had their announcement weekend this past Sunday. This coming Sunday the campaign director will be giving a mass announcement and will be available to answer questions afterwards. **Fr. Joseph Kim** continues to be supportive and excited about the campaign.

Fr. Gordon Reigle is actively recruiting his campaign cabinet at **St. Robert Bellarmine, Flushing**. Fr. Gordon is reviewing the Campaign Calendar.

Fr. Gordon Reigle and the campaign director are working on the Campaign Calendar and will continue to finalize the campaign plan for **Good Shepherd, Montrose**. Announcement Weekend is February 24-25.

Fr. Nenneau has reviewed the ratings and is scheduling Leadership Gift meetings over the next few weeks at **St. Mary, Mt. Morris**. The All Ministry Meetings will be held on March 15-16.

Immaculate Conception, Milan, Michigan (Fr. Vincent Van Doan)

Fr. Vincent and the parish leadership will hold their next campaign cabinet meeting this next week in preparation for Announcement Weekend the following week.

St. Mary, Chelsea, Michigan (Fr. Bill Turner)

Fr. Bill Turner and parish leadership will hold their first campaign cabinet meeting this next week in preparation for Announcement Weekend the following week.

St. Joseph Shrine, Brooklyn, Michigan (Fr. Bob Pienta)

Fr. Bob Pienta and the parish leadership team are preparing for Announcement Weekend set for mid-March.