



Another busy week of organizing and the beginning of Leadership Gift visits at the parish level, All-In Ministry Meetings and Cabinet meetings. Witness to Hope continues to involve, excite and motivate people to make tremendous decisions of faith that will help the Church of Lansing thrive for years to come!

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us...What we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal..." Anonymous

Campaign preparation continues at **St. John the Evangelist Parish in Jackson**. **Fr. Chas Canoy** has recruited a leadership team and we are reviewing statistical data and identifying our leadership asks. The parish is being educated on the elements of the *Witness to Hope* campaign through bulletin inserts while we await Diocesan approval of the Case. Materials have been submitted for the campaign brochure.

The **St. Mary Student Parish** campaign team is reviewing parish lists and we are focusing on small major donor meetings with pastor **Fr. Ben Hawley** to begin in early March after the University Spring break. Parish Gatherings are scheduled beginning March 12 and continuing through March. We are also identifying major asks that will involve the Bishop and beginning to schedule with the assistance of Tony Gwiazdowski, Executive Campaign Director.

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 recruiting our leadership team and campaign cabinet while we line up our lead and major gift visits.

The **St. Jude, DeWitt** campaign cabinet is preparing the follow-up letter to be mailed in two weeks to those who have not yet made their gifts to the campaign. We are currently at the \$2,314,000 level in pledges, praying that we can reach the \$2.5 million

mark. We are reviewing previous solicitations that we have not received a decision on.

At **Holy Family, Grand Blanc** 642 families have made a Witness to Hope gift, bringing them closer to their 40% participation goal of 700 pledges. **Msgr. Jerry** has received a good response to the special letter he and **Fr. Gary** sent out recently, including pledges from “snowbird” parishioners who spend the winter in Florida and Arizona.

Over 85 parish volunteers attended the All in Ministry meeting on Thursday night at **Holy Redeemer, Burton** and the 3 parish improvement projects received enthusiastic support – especially funding for refurbishing the pews and kneelers. **Fr. Steve** is kicking off the campaign at all Masses this weekend.

Fr. Steve Mattson, Resurrection, Lansing has his Campaign Cabinet recruited and will be kicking off the campaign the weekend of March 4 and 5 with an All in Ministry meeting and announcements at all Masses. **Fr. Steve’s** generous pledge is the first gift to their \$2.1 million combined campaign.

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

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

To this point, through receptions and individual visits **Fr. John Klein** has visited with more than 150 members of **St. Gerard, Lansing**. This weekend the parish will host a first round of receptions after each of the Masses Saturday and Sunday.

Initial individual calls by **Fr. James Eisele** started this week. More individual calls will continue through the weekend and into the next couple of weeks. Additionally, the first of the in-home gatherings for **St. Michael, Grand Ledge** will start this weekend.

At **Most Holy Trinity, Fowler** initial individual visits are being planned for next week when **Fr. Dennis Howard** returns. Father noted before he left that a number of families he approached are very willing to set time for a visit to discuss the campaign.

St. Patrick, Brighton: **Fr. Karl** held announcement weekend this past weekend at all Masses and everyone is very excited to begin the Campaign at the parish. **Fr. Karl** has begun the leadership calls and should see great results in the coming weeks. The parish

also held the In-Home training this week with 8 reception dates set. All the other dates have been established and the campaign is moving forward.

St. Agnes, Fowlerville: Fr. Nate and team have held their second cabinet meeting this week and announcement weekend was this past weekend. The parish receptions and host have been recruited and the Campaign is underway.

St. Augustine, Howell: Fr. Gregg and team have met to plan the In-home receptions and the host are looking forward to their events. Invitations will go out shortly and everyone is looking for great success. Announcement weekend was this past weekend. Fr. Gregg will begin leadership calls next week and is looking forward to the first gifts coming in to the parish.

St. Joseph, St. Johns is reviewing the final copy of their campaign calendar. Fr. Mike met with both councils to discuss this campaign. The lay leaders are excited for the work to begin. Donor research will begin this week.

St. Mary, Westphalia will begin engagement visits this week. Fr. Eric has finalized his steering committee. He will be the first parishioner to make a gift to the campaign. Donor research will continue this week.

St. Peter, Eaton Rapids has submitted their parish roster to begin compiling the data. The updated calendar will be reviewed this week. Fr. George is on vacation but he is ready to begin this opportunity.

St. Robert Bellarmine, Flushing: Fr. Gordon has recruited his Campaign Cabinet. The first Cabinet meeting is Thursday, February 23. Reception dates for March have been set and hosts are being recruited. Fr. Gordon has approved the campaign brochure and finalizing donor ratings. Fr. Gordon will begin leadership calls in the next few weeks.

Good Shepherd, Montrose: Fr. Gordon is holding announcement weekend this weekend after all Masses. Information receptions will be held after Masses during March. Fr. Gordon will begin leadership calls in the next few weeks.

St. Mary, Mt. Morris: Fr. Tom and team have had their first cabinet meeting and announcement weekend is next weekend. Leadership calls will begin in the next few weeks. Beginning announcement weekend, Fr. Tom and parishioners will be praying the Campaign Prayer before every Mass.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Lansing had an after mass announcement this past Sunday to go more in depth about the diocesan and parish case. The parish was very receptive and supportive of the campaign. We are hoping to have packets for the parish very soon so that they can be handed out after mass. **Fr. Joseph Kim** has challenged his parishioners to match his pledge or exceed it so that he can match them.

Cristo Rey, Lansing: Fr. Fred Thelen The All In Ministry presentation took place this week, appointments for engagement meetings are being scheduled.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint: Fr. Paul Donnelly

Witness To Hope presentation was made to the Parish Council, putting the campaign into the context of the parish debt following the generous Year of Mercy grant. Parish Council members are receptive and anxious to reduce the debt, seeing the "light at the end of the tunnel."