



Continued campaigns efforts at the Pilot Parishes is bearing more fruit and the Winter Wave parishes have begun solicitation of gifts from parishioners! Big news coming soon!

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

"Generosity is what keeps the things we own from owning us."

At **St. John the Evangelist Parish in Jackson**, **Fr. Chas Canoy** has recruited a leadership team and is beginning leadership visits next week. The parish continues to learn about the elements of the *Witness to Hope* campaign through bulletin inserts.

The **St. Mary Student Parish** campaign team continues reviewing parish lists and we are focusing on small major donor meetings with Pastor **Fr. Ben Hawley** and Bishop Boyea to be held throughout March and April. Larger parish gatherings will be scheduled for early May.

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 has finished their efforts to reach those who have not yet pledged and we are most grateful for their dedication and hard work on the *Witness to Hope* campaign. We are currently at the \$2,320,000 level in pledges, with a follow-up mailing to be sent in the next week with the hope of securing the additional pledges needed to reach the \$2.5 million mark.

St. Patrick – Brighton

Fr. Karl is holding leadership calls over the next few weeks and the cabinet is preparing to host a number of In-home gatherings. **Fr. Karl** is happy to announce they have already raised \$104,000 toward the goal and looking to climb up fast. All the other dates have been established and the campaign is moving forward.

St. Agnes – Fowlerville

Fr. Nate and team are preparing for two in-home gatherings over the next two weeks and Fr. Nate is preparing for his leadership calls. The parish receptions and host have been recruited and the Campaign is underway.

St. Augustine – Howell

Fr. Gregg and team have met to plan all the In-home receptions and the host are looking forward to their events. Invitations have gone out and everyone is looking for great success. **Fr. Gregg** will begin leadership calls next week and is looking forward to the first gifts coming in to the parish.

Last weekend **St. Gerard, Lansing** hosted receptions after each of the six Masses. **Fr. Klein** led the discussion about the campaign elements, how it ties to the Bishop's Pastoral Letter. So far more than 300 people have attended a discussion and gifts are being returned. This weekend there will be receptions following the Masses, with Bishop attending two Sunday receptions.

At **St. Michael, Grand Ledge** individual meetings and three receptions highlighted last week. This week **Fr. Eisele** is hosting more individual visits along with larger receptions. Friday there will be a reception in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry Dinner.

Individual visits have started with **Fr. Howard** at **Most Holy Trinity, Fowler**. This weekend there will be a Commissioning Ceremony followed by receptions following each of the Masses.

St. Robert Bellarmine – Fr. Gordon presented the Diocesan case and the Parish case at the first Cabinet Meeting on Thursday, February 23. The Cabinet members are very enthused about the campaign and are meeting again next week to plan March receptions. Three parishioners have volunteered to hold receptions at their homes. **Fr. Gordon** will begin leadership calls in the next few weeks.

Good Shepherd – Montrose. Fr. Gordon announced the campaign after all Masses February 24-25. 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 will announce the campaign after all Masses this weekend. Leadership meetings will be scheduled before the next cabinet meeting, March

At **Holy Family, Grand Blanc**. **Msgr. Jerry** and **Fr. Gary** are getting closer to the goal each week with just about 50 parishioners needed to make their participation goal of 700 families (40%) and \$4 million in pledges. They are making a personal phone calls to the parish's top offertory donors whom have yet to make a campaign pledge.

Holy Redeemer, Burton has received some early campaign pledges after a very successful Announcement Weekend. **Fr. Steve** has parish gatherings scheduled for Thursday nights for the next 6 weeks and Hosts, Hospitality volunteers and Prayer Champions have all been recruited.

Fr. Steve Mattson, Resurrection, Lansing is kicking off his campaign this weekend, including an All in Ministry meeting on Saturday night. Parishioners are excited about the projects their combined campaign will fund: a new structure to connect the 2 school buildings and beautification of the sanctuary.

At **St. Paul, Owosso** **Fr. Michael O'Brien, Pastor** and **Fr. Dieudonne Ntakarutimana, Parochial Vicar** have met with several motivated parishioners for conversations about why this campaign is so important and to thank them personally for their generous support.

Fr. Mike O'Brien and staff at **St. Joseph** in **Owosso** are putting the final touches on the parish brochure and roster.

Fr. Robert Pienta at the **St. Joseph Shrine** in **Brooklyn** has been busy this week scheduling key campaign dates. **Fr. Bob** is encouraging all parish volunteers and those serving actively in parish ministry to please attend the **All-In ministry meeting on Tuesday, March 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Family Center** for information and understanding about the *Witness to Hope* Campaign.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Lansing continues to move forward in their campaign. We are hoping to have packets to the parishioners soon. An after mass announcement will be happening soon to explain the packets. So far, one parishioner has matched **Fr. Joseph Kim** in his challenge to match his pledge. He is hoping someone will exceed his pledge so that he can match them.

St. Joseph, St. Johns conducted there all in ministry meeting with Bishop Boyea. The steering committee met for the first time. **Fr. Mike** announced the campaign last weekend and has begun leadership solicitations.

St. Mary, Westphalia has reached 21% of its goal thus far. **Fr. Eric** continues to eagerly meet with parishioners. He is following up to close many gifts. Final edits are being made to the brochure.

St. Peter, Eaton Rapids is continuing to meet with potential steering committee members. **Fr. George** is working with the parish staff to assist with donor research.

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

This weekend is Announcement Weekend! Fr. Vincent and the parish leadership will host the All Ministry Meeting this next week.

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

Last week the leadership team held their cabinet meeting and identified assignments for each member. This weekend is Announcement Weekend! Fr. Bill Turner and the parish leadership will host the All Ministry Meeting Monday night March 6, 2017.

Cristo Rey, Lansing: Fr. Fred Thelen

Leadership engagement visits began this week. The second Cabinet meeting also took place this week; leadership team members are anxious to begin large parish gatherings.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint: Fr. Paul Donnelly

The All-In Ministry meeting took place this week, following Announcement Weekend last Sunday. Fr. Paul enthusiastically announced his personal pledge at Mass. His spirit and faith in the OLG community has parishioners excited about the possibility of nearly or completely paying off the parish debt.