



Easter Blessings to all. As with weather turns warmer, Winter Wave parishes have been very active. Over \$15 million in gift requests are pending and many more parishioners are yet to be seen. As parishioners prayerfully discern their support we look forward to a many faith filled decisions soon!

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

“Act in such a way that all those who come in contact with you will go away joyful. Sow happiness about you because you have received much from God; give then, generously to others...” Sr. Maria Faustina

At St. John the Evangelist Parish in Jackson, Fr. Chas Canoy has conducted 23 personal leadership visits and commitments are coming in. At this point, we have approximately 10% of the goal pledged from 6 families. An additional 154 personal letters were sent before Holy Week to request personal visits with Fr. Chas and members of the campaign leadership team, including Fr. Brian. The parish case statements are being printed and should be available for distribution beginning with the All-In Ministry meeting next week.

The **St. Mary Student Parish** campaign case brochure has been printed and we are in the process of starting our distribution to various parish ministries, volunteers and staff. We are now scheduling small major donor meetings with Pastor **Fr. Ben Hawley** and Bishop Boyea to be held throughout May and June.

Fr. Bosco has begun scheduling the lead parish visits and we continue preparing for the visit by **Bishop Boyea at St. Mary in Manchester** on Saturday, April 29. Gift Requests and Case statements are being printed to be distributed next weekend to all that attend this special event. Over the next two weeks, we will be distributing gift requests to as many parishioners as possible.

Special appeals at both Palm Sunday and Easter Masses have helped **St. Gerard, Lansing** reach 71% of its goal. 500 families have combined to commit \$1,730,815 to Witness to Hope. **Fr. John Klein** is currently reviewing the donor list, urging participation, and planning next steps in inviting people to make their gift.

Fr. Dennis Howard at **Most Holy Trinity, Fowler** has realized 16 commitments for \$153,750 or 23% of goal. This week, calls for both individual visits and group receptions are being made with the events to begin next week.

St. Michael, Grand Ledge is at 20% of goal from 48 gifts. Together, the parish has donated \$202,750. **Fr. James Eisele** is working with his campaign committee to seek continued participation. Last week, several committee members made presentations to ministries in which they are involved, asking people to prayerful consider and make their gift. **Fr. Eisele** is also working with several couples to make presentations at Mass to help with education and solicitation of all families.

St. Patrick – Brighton

Fr. Karl is continuing to close his leadership calls and following up with top prospects that still need to be visited. The cabinet has hosted its last In-Home reception and is preparing for an additional after Mass weekend this weekend. Next week we will host a series of 4 large parish gatherings. **Fr. Karl** is happy to announce they have already raised \$440,014 toward the goal and looking to climb up fast.

St. Agnes – Fowlerville

Fr. Nate and team hosted a parish gathering this week and have a senior gathering next week and are receiving RSVP's for that event. **Fr. Nate** is happy to announce they have raised \$91,900 and working hard to get to goal.

St. Augustine – Howell

Fr. Gregg and the Cabinet hosted a parish reception this week and have planned two events next week. This weekend they have an after Mass weekend planned and are looking forward to sharing with the parish the plans they have for Witness to Hope. **Fr. Gregg** announces they are currently at \$40,000 toward goal.

St. Robert Bellarmine – Flushing. Pledges to date total \$146,665 from 21 parishioners. Receptions continue this week and after Masses this weekend. **Fr. Gordon** and a host of parishioners are traveling to Fatima next week. Prayers for a safe and prayerful pilgrimage.

Good Shepherd – Montrose. Fr. Gordon and the parishioners welcomed the Bishop on Palm Saturday Vigil. The parish is at 31% of \$48,770 on 15 pledges. Receptions continue this week and after Masses this weekend.

St. Mary – Mt. Morris. Fr. Tom and the Campaign Chair are holding two more receptions for Easter Week, April 18 and April 20 and after all Masses on April 23. Pledges to date total \$61,280 or 13% of the \$478,332 goal.

St. Joseph, St. Johns will host a parish gathering this weekend. Fr. Mike is enjoying his time away after Easter and is eager to meet with more parishioners individually next week. The parish has raised over \$195,000 so far and is at 22% of goal.

St. Mary, Westphalia will host Witness Weekend this weekend. Bishop Boyea will also attend the final parish gathering on Monday. Fr. Eric is thrilled that the parish is at \$894,160; which is 95% of goal. He is working hard to increase participation.

St. Peter, Eaton Rapids will host parish gatherings at the end of all masses last week. Fr. George is going to encourage parishioners to make a decision within the next week. The parish has raised over \$60,000 which is 17%.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Lansing continues to have a steady stream of pledge cards coming in. They are currently at just over 60% with over a quarter of the parish participating. Fr. Joseph Kim continues encouraging his parishioners to turn in their pledge cards.

Dawn Hausman, Director of Consecrated Vocations / Diocese of Lansing and Fr. Robert Pienta, Pastor lead a nicely attended parish gathering at the **St. Joseph Shrine** in **Brooklyn** on Wednesday April 5th to share information and understanding about the *Witness to Hope* Campaign.

At **St. Paul, Owosso** Fr. Michael O'Brien, Pastor and Fr. Dieudonne Ntakarutimana, Parochial Vicar are encouraging motivated parishioners to consider making their pledge as soon as possible to help build momentum and support for the *Witness to Hope* campaign.

Fr. Mike O'Brien at **St. Joseph** in **Owosso** has reached out to several parish leaders to discuss the campaign calendar.

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

Fr. Vincent and the campaign leadership team members are preparing for the next phase of the campaign and the parish wide gatherings. The first parish wide gathering will be held this next Tuesday evening. Bishop Earl Boyea will be in attendance for

their gathering the following week. The new pledge total is currently \$58,220, 19% of target goal!

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

Canon Turner and the campaign leadership team members are busy preparing for the next phase of the campaign and will be hosting the parish wide gatherings. The first of the parish wide gatherings will be held this next Wednesday after the 9 am morning Mass. Bishop Earl Boyea will be in attendance at their gathering the following week. The new pledge total increased this past week over \$30,000 and is currently \$89,360, 15% of target goal!

Holy Redeemer, Burton is well underway with 86 pledges totaling \$300,000. **Father Steve** is continuing with leadership visits in the coming week and campaign volunteers advocates will begin calling the over 300 parishioners who already have their packets

Church of the Resurrection, Lansing is at \$554,848 for 26% of their \$2.1 million combined goal, thanks to generous responses to **Fr. Steve's** one-on-one meetings with parishioners. This weekend the parish is having 2 final receptions at Mercy Hall hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

Cristo Rey, Lansing

Fr. Fred Thelen and the Cristo Rey Leadership Cabinet are preparing for Bishop Boyea's visit this weekend. Volunteers will be handing out packets that will be distributed at each of the liturgies. A special Witness To Hope bulletin inserts was used on Easter Sunday.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint

Fr. Paul Donnelly and the parish leadership also used a special Witness To Hope bulletin inserts on Easter Sunday. There will be meeting with the Leadership Cabinet, and **Fr. Paul** is planning to continue leadership gift meetings and follow up this week.