



Congratulations to Fr. Eric Weber and the people of St. Mary Parish, Westphalia who have become the first Winter Wave parish to reach their goal. The leadership of the parish is now focusing its remaining efforts on receiving even greater participation!

This is an important time for this Wave of parishes as there are thousands of parishioners who have been praying and discerning their gifts. In the next few weeks these prayerful decisions will spur on the success of these parishes.

Bishop Boyea will be conducting two leadership level gift solicitations this week and will be holding gatherings for Senior Clergy in Burton and DeWitt. The priests of the Diocese of Lansing have been very generous with their time, talent and treasure. Thanks to all of them for the service of their Priesthood and their tremendous leadership!

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

*"As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty,
nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God,
who richly provides us with everything to enjoy."*

1 Timothy 6:17-19

St. Mary, Westphalia hosted Witness Weekend and held its final parish gathering with **Bishop Boyea**. The steering committee also met this week to discuss next steps. **Fr. Eric** is overjoyed that the parish has reached goal! The parish is at \$1,068,210; which is 114% of goal. He is continuing to increase participation. He has put in the time, work and dedication to reach this point! Congratulations to Fr. Eric, the parish staff and the Westphalia community! See Fr. Eric below as he celebrates this great success.



St. Joseph, St. Johns held a parish gathering this weekend with Ray Rzepecki. **Fr. Mike** has met with many parishioners individually this week. The parish has raised \$216,942 so far and is at 25% of goal.

St. Peter, Eaton Rapids held parish gatherings at the end of all masses last week. **Fr. George** is on vacation this week but he is encouraging parishioners to make a decision. The parish has raised over \$79,650, which is 22% of goal.

At **St. John the Evangelist Parish in Jackson** major gift visits continue and we are scheduling parish gatherings throughout May. **Fr. Chas Canoy** has been meeting with parish families and all have been enthusiastic about the campaign. We have also recruited approximately 15 families who will serve as volunteer advocates.

At **St. Mary Student Parish** the campaign case brochure has been printed and we are in the process of distributing them to various parish ministries, volunteers and staff. Parish gatherings will begin in May.

Gift Requests and case statements are being printed for **St. Mary Manchester** and distribution will begin this weekend. **Fr. Bosco** will be celebrating his 25th ordination anniversary this weekend with a special Mass offered by Bishop Boyea.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Lansing continues to have a steady stream of pledge cards coming in. They are currently at just over 80% with over 36% of the parish participating. **Fr. Joseph Kim** continues encouraging his parishioners to pray about their gift to the campaign and to turn in their pledge cards.

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

Fr. Vincent and the campaign leadership team members met with over 10 families at this week's gathering and are continuing to prepare for the participation phase of the campaign. Bishop Earl Boyea will be in attendance next Wednesday, May 3rd for the parish wide gathering. The pledge total remains \$58,220, 19% of target goal!

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

Fr. Bill and the campaign leadership team members met with over 5 families at this week's gathering and are continuing to prepare for the participation phase of the campaign. Bishop Earl Boyea will be in attendance next Tuesday, May 2nd for the parish wide gathering. The pledge total increased \$25,000 this week. The new pledge total is \$114,000, 20% of target goal!

St. Gerard, Lansing reached 72% goal with 519 gifts. Total is \$1,756,411.

Fr. Klein is contacting the remaining 14 leadership tier prospects that have not yet responded. Further, **Fr. Klein** spoke at a meeting of parents new to St. Gerard School last week. He explained the Educational Trust Fund and its impact on tuition. He explained how Witness to Hope funds for parish will add to this. **Fr. Klein** is now reaching out to all families with children in Catholic school, and to the graduates of St. Gerard asking them to help the next generation as the prior generation did for them.

Most Holy Trinity, Fowler is at 23.5% of goal from 18 gifts. Total is \$157,375.

There are 688 packets to be distributed. There are 66 gift request pending.

Fr. Howard is actively inviting families to one of three receptions that will occur in the next two weeks. In addition, he is making calls for other individual visits.

St. Michael, Grand Ledge is at 22% of goal, with pledges from 55 families for \$216,759.

Fr. Eisele send an email to every member of the parish asking for their prayerful consideration for a pledge and to please return it before or at Mass this weekend. **Fr. Eisele** is making follow up calls for meetings with key individual prospects, and has his advocates and committee making calls where packets of been distributed to encourage decisions and return of pledges.

Holy Redeemer, Burton is working hard with the theme of *Now is the Time*. **Father Steve Anderson** is encouraging parishioners to make their pledges now - before participation weekend in May. Results are trending upward and parishioners remain enthusiastic about the parish projects that will be funded. This weekend at all four Masses parishioners who have already pledged will be giving their Witness Talks in the form of an "interview" with Deacon Ken Preiss in a format that is fun and unique to Holy Redeemer.

Church of the Resurrection, Lansing held its final parish receptions this week with support from the Knights of Columbus. **Fr. Steve Mattson** is continuing his one-on-one meetings with parishioners with great results. This weekend Cabinet members and donors will be giving Witness Talks at all Masses.

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 parish receptions and is preparing for witness weekend after Mass this weekend. **Fr. Karl** is happy to announce they have already raised \$536,000 toward the goal and looking to climb up fast.

St. Agnes – Fowlerville

Fr. Nate and team hosted a parish gathering this week and a very successful senior gathering. The parish is hosting a informational session during Mass this week and encouraging all families to pick up their packets. **Fr. Nate** is happy to announce they have raised \$117,200 and working hard to get to goal.

St. Augustine – Howell

Fr. Gregg and the Cabinet hosted a parish reception this week and 3 Mass informational meetings this past weekend with over 100 families picking up their information. Next week **Fr. Gregg** and the cabinet are hosting an after Mass breakfast for the Wednesday morning Mass. **Fr. Gregg** announces they are currently at \$40,000 toward goal.

St. Robert Bellarmine – Flushing. **Fr. Gordon** and the Campaign Cabinet held 8 more receptions before leaving on pilgrimage to Fatima. **Fr. Gordon** received the most generous pledge this week as he travels with parishioners on Pilgrimage to Fatima. Our Lady of Fatima, Pray for Us! Pledges to date total \$212,945 from 30 parishioners; 20% of goal. The Campaign Cabinet met this week and to plan the final stages of the campaign.

Good Shepherd – Montrose. Last weekend, the Campaign Chair spoke about the campaign at Mass and pledges packets were distributed. **Fr. Gordon** will return from

pilgrimage to Fatima next week and set Witness and Participation Weekend. Pledges to date equal \$54,670 from 18 generous parishioners.

St. Mary – Mt. Morris. Fr. Tom hosted several receptions over the past few weeks. Pledges to date total \$89,80 or 19% of the \$478,332 goal. The Campaign Cabinet met this week and finalized plans for Witness Weekend.

Fr. Robert Pienta with the support of staff and a Co Chair hosted a parish gathering at the **St. Joseph Shrine in Brooklyn** on Divine Mercy Sunday to share information and understanding about the *Witness to Hope* Campaign. **Fr. Bob** clearly articulated the need to support both the wider church and the Shrine. At the end of the meeting two motivated parishioners stepped up to volunteer as Co Chairs to drive additional engagement going forward.

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 invited forty-eight parish leaders to a *Witness to Hope* leadership gathering in early May.

Cristo Rey, Lansing, Fr. Fred Thelen

Bishop Boyea celebrated all the Masses at Cristo Rey last weekend. Everyone stayed for his presentation at the end of each mass, attending receptions following each liturgy. **Fr. Thelen** and his parishioners were extremely appreciative of his presence at Cristo Rey. Volunteers distributed packets at each of the liturgies.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint

Fr. Paul Donnelly

The Leadership Cabinet meets Saturday morning. Leadership meetings continue along with distribution of packets.