



**Happy Mothers Day to all of the Mom's in the Diocese of Lansing! Everyone on the Witness to Hope Team sends our prayers and best wishes to you on your day. We also send our prayers to all the children in the diocese who are making their First Holy Communion this weekend and over the next few weeks. May the Lord Bless you with His Holy Presence in your hearts.**

**Last week was a great week for the Campaign and we are looking forward to celebrating several parishes reaching goal in the next week or so.**

**Bishop Boyea conducted another leadership level gift solicitations this week and had a wonderful meeting with Senior Clergy in DeWitt last Friday. We continue to make progress in reaching out to Leadership Gift prospects to ask for their support for their parishes and the overall wider Church needs.**

**Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director**

## **Parish News**

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*"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." 1 Timothy 6:17*

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**St. Gerard, Lansing** is sending out a letter to all those from the parish who have not yet made their commitment to Witness to Hope. **Fr. John Klein** has personalized a message to the members of the parish asking them to remember the parish's special commitment to Catholic education. The parish has received commitments from 630 families for a total committed of \$1,898,434 to date.

**Most Holy Trinity, Fowler** is at 31% of goal from 33 gifts. Total is \$211,755.

**Fr. Howard** has hosted two receptions this week. The parish is sending out a special email blast to all who have received their packets, asking them to return their commitment by this weekend.

**St. Michael, Grand Ledge** has passed the halfway point toward its goal, with pledges from 269 families for \$536,950. Education of the campaign and announcements regarding progress are at Masses and in bulletins this week.

**St. Mary, Westphalia** will host participation weekend this weekend. **Fr. Eric** will encourage participation. The parish is at \$1,446,915; which is 154% of goal.

**St. Joseph, St. Johns** will hold witness weekend this weekend after all masses. This will be the final opportunity to distribute packets. **Fr. Mike** is continuing to meet with parishioners individually. The parish has raised \$395,752 so far and is at 45% of goal.

**St. Peter, Eaton Rapids** held Witness Weekend last weekend. **Fr. George** will lead parishioners through the pledge card for Participation Weekend this weekend. The parish has raised over \$175,550; which is 48% of goal.

**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 Witness Weekend the past two weekends with over 400 families picking up their packets. **Fr. Karl** is happy to announce they have already raised \$977,212 toward the goal and looking to climb up fast.

**St. Agnes – Fowlerville, Fr. Nate** and team hosted witness weekend this past weekend with over 60 families picking up their packets. **Fr. Nate** is happy to announce they have raised \$163,030 and working hard to get to goal.

**St. Augustine – Howell, Fr. Gregg** and the Cabinet hosted witness weekend and a packet pick up after the weekend Masses. **Fr. Gregg** announces they are currently at \$69,400 toward goal.

**St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Lansing** – The parish continues to get pledge cards in and is close to 110% of goal. Their participation rate is nearing 50% and **Fr. Joseph Kim** will be encouraging his parish to get that rate as high as possible. There are projects that the parish can consider now that they are over goal.

**Cristo Rey, Lansing-** Participation Weekend takes place this weekend. Members of the Leadership Team continued to speak at each weekend liturgy about Witness To Hope and why they pledged. Volunteers continued to distribute packets. **Fr. Fred Thelen** is encouraged by the enthusiasm of his community.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint- Fr. Paul Donnelly** continues to make individual donor visits throughout the week and the weekend. Witness Weekend is scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> and Participation Weekend is set for June 4<sup>th</sup>. Distribution of packets continued this past weekend.

A parish wide gathering at **St. John the Evangelist** was hosted this week by **Fr. Chas Canoy** and **Fr. Brian Lenz** with nearly 80 families attending. Several campaign leaders were present to

share their thoughts on the *Witness to Hope* campaign and to encourage fellow parishioners to reflect and pray about their involvement and support. Individual meetings continue throughout May.

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 are set for the balance of May and into June. Individual visits with lead tier givers are taking place as well.

Gift packets have been distributed at St. Mary Manchester and will continue this weekend at parish-wide gatherings after Mass. **Fr. Bosco** will also distribute gift requests at a special viewing this weekend of a movie commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> apparition anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima.

**St. Robert Bellarmine – Flushing.** Pledges to date total \$400,820 from 90 parishioners. **Fr. Gordon** scheduled additional leadership visits with parishioners returning from Florida. The campaign cabinet meets tomorrow and witness weekend is this weekend.

**Good Shepherd – Montrose.** Pledges to date equal \$94,990 from 30 pledges. Witness weekend is this weekend. Only 41 more packets are left to distribute. There has been a great response from parishioners.

**St. Mary – Mt. Morris.** Pledges to date total \$207,650. All packets have been distributed or mailed to parishioners. **Fr. Nenneau** and campaign cabinet will meet and prepare for Participation Weekend.

**Fr. Robert Pienta** with the support of staff and co chairs is gearing for his second witness weekend and final packet distribution on 20-21 May at **St. Joseph Shrine in Brooklyn.** **Fr. Bob** is clearly articulating the need to support the campaign to build up both the wider church and the Shrine.

A very motivated cabinet co chair is arranging meetings for **Fr. Michael O'Brien** at **St. Paul, Owosso** with parish leaders to discuss their pledge decision to build momentum for the *Witness to Hope* campaign prior to Commitment weekend on 3-4 June.

In order to build much needed support for the *Witness to Hope* campaign at **St. Joseph in Owosso** **Fr. Mike O'Brien** has reached out to a parish leader to encourage him to share his tremendous passion for the future of the parish during a witness inspiration at both Masses this weekend.

**Holy Redeemer, Burton** is at \$660,000; which is 61% of goal. 225 families have already pledged for 68% of the participation goal. **Fr. Steve Anderson** is encouraging parishioners to make their pledges at all Masses during Participation Weekend.

**Church of the Resurrection, Lansing** reports that 85 families have thus far made their pledges for a total of \$738,800; which is 35% of goal. This weekend is Participation Weekend. **Fr. Steve Mattson** reports that parishioners remain enthusiastic about their combined campaign which is funding 2 important projects: beautifying the sanctuary and constructing a secure connection between their 2 school buildings.

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

Fr. Vincent and the campaign leadership team are preparing for the Witness Weekend this weekend. There are three members of the campaign leadership team that scheduled to share their witness and testimony at all Masses and they will also be showing the campaign DVD. Volunteers will be distributing the campaign materials after all Masses this weekend. The new pledge total has increased to over \$94,000, 32% of the target goal!

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

Fr. Bill is visiting the Holy Land and has entrusted his campaign leadership team to conduct Witness Weekend this weekend. There are two members of the campaign leadership team that are scheduled to share their witness and testimony at all of the Masses. They will also be showing the campaign DVD in the gathering space while several campaign advocates help distribute campaign materials to all families after all Masses this weekend. The new pledge total has increased to over \$167,000, 30% of the target goal!