



Congratulations to Fr. George and the people of St. Peter, Eaton Rapids for surpassing their Witness to Hope goal! Now past 120% of their base goal, we are grateful to the hard work and generosity of all.

We wish to our best wishes for a Happy Memorial Day to all the Veterans and to the families of the men and women who sacrifice their lives for our country. Everyone on the Witness to Hope Team sends our prayers and best wishes to you on your day.

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 a group of Leadership level donors in Lansing this week. 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

'The generosity of our God cannot be outdone. He calls us to respond and to be cheerful givers, remembering that ALL that we have is a gift from Him.'

Anonymous

St. Mary, Westphalia conducted follow up weekend last weekend. **Fr. Eric** is so excited about what the parish has been able to accomplish. The parish has raised \$2,030,601, which is 216% of goal.

St. Joseph, St. Johns conducted participation weekend last weekend. **Fr. Mike** is continuing to meet with parishioners individually and he is contacting leadership donors who have not made a gift yet. The parish has raised \$740,157 so far and is at 86% of goal.

St. Peter, Eaton Rapids held follow up weekend last weekend. **Fr. George** is ecstatic that the parish has exceeded goal! The parish has raised over \$448,245, which is 123% of goal.



Major gift visits continue at **St. John the Evangelist** in Jackson. **Fr. Chas Canoy** has made nearly 60 personal visits and he is enjoying the experience of meeting with parishioners and listening to their feedback on parish life. Parish wide gatherings began this past weekend and we have distributed personally 300 gift request packets. Our new campaign total is just under \$600,000 about 29% of the goal.

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. Distribution of campaign gift request packets will begin next weekend and we have a campaign event scheduled for June 6. Personal meetings with Bishop Boyea are being scheduled for dates in June.

Fr. Bosco, Pastor of St. Mary Manchester, has begun personally distributing gift requests and we are beginning to see responses come in. Parish-wide gatherings will continue throughout May and into early June.

Holy Redeemer, Burton has exceeded their participation goal of 330 and reports 370 families have made pledges thus far. **Fr. Steve Anderson** continues to encourage parishioners to return their pledge through the collection basket or by going to the website and pledging on-line which seems to be the trend since Participation Weekend. The base goal of \$1,088,000 is within sight: pledges thus far total \$912,000 for 84% of goal.

Church of the Resurrection, Lansing reports 160 pledges (90% of participation goal) totaling \$1,034,000 which is 50% of the campaign goal. **Fr. Steve Mattson** is concentrating on his pending leadership gifts, including parishioners who are finally back to Lansing after spending the winter in Florida. All remaining campaign packets have been sent out and the parish plans their follow-up mailing in 10 days.

St. Patrick – Brighton

Fr. Karl is continuing to close his few remaining leadership calls and following up with top prospects that still need to make their gift to the campaign. The parish hosted its participation weekend this past weekend. They had over 200 families making a first time gift to the campaign. Raising over \$500,000.

Fr. Karl is happy to announce they have reached their base goal and pushing forward now to their total combined goal. The parish is currently at 1,843,865 in total gifts.

St. Agnes – Fowlerville

Fr. Nate and team hosted participation weekend this past weekend with over 100 new families making their gift to witness to hope. **Fr. Nate** is happy to announce they have raised \$327,684 and working hard to get to goal.

St. Augustine – Howell

Fr. Gregg and the Cabinet hosted participation weekend and **Fr. Greg** is happy to say that they raised over \$70,000 in new gifts. **Fr. Gregg** announces they are currently at \$170,462 toward goal.

Cristo Rey, Lansing: Fr. Fred Thelen

Cristo Rey parish is at \$299,972 from 100 gifts, which represents 75% of the goal. Follow up will continue after the Fiesta this weekend, especially with those who have picked up their packet and/or are regular offertory donors and have not yet pledged.

Volunteers with laptops will be available after masses to assist with online pledging.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint: Fr. Paul Donnelly

Invitations have been mailed for a donor reception next week at the parish rectory. Volunteers continue to distribute packets after masses. Our Lady of Guadalupe parish is at **34% with \$138,238** pledged.

St. Robert Bellarmine – Flushing. Pledges to date total \$661,176 from 165 parishioners. **Fr. Gordon's** is working hard to close the leadership gifts. Participation weekend is Pentecost weekend - June 3 and 4. The campaign cabinet will be making phone calls after Memorial Weekend to encourage participation.

Good Shepherd – Montrose. Pledges to date equal \$104,760 from 46 pledges. Participation weekend is Pentecost weekend – June 3 and 4.

St. Mary – Mt. Morris. Pledges to date total \$351,000 from 149 parishioners. Over Participation weekend, 47 parishioners responded with “praying.” **Fr. Nenneau** is very happy with the response from the parish and is confident St. Mary will reach its goal.

Fr. Robert Pienta with the support of motivated staff and co chairs is gearing for packet distribution this weekend to summer visitors to the **St. Joseph Shrine in Brooklyn.** **Fr. Bob** continues to speak to the essential need to support the campaign to build up the Shrine and wider church.

Last weekend at all Masses witness speakers inspired many as they described why their households are supporting the *Witness to Hope* campaign at **St. Paul in Owosso.** **Fr. Michael O'Brien** with the help of motivated Co Chair Matt Hufnagel continues to encourage parish leaders to hand in their pledge soon to build momentum prior to Commitment weekend on 3-4 June.

Last weekend at **St. Joseph in Owosso** pastor **Fr. Mike O'Brien** had Dennis Hrcka share his tremendous passion for the future of the parish during a witness inspiration at both Masses. Dennis reminded folks that a campaign of the scope of *Witness to Hope* comes along once in a lifetime and that for some households this may be their chance to make their most significant gift to the church.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Lansing – The parish is closing in on 120% of their goal. **Fr. Joseph Kim** will have their follow up letters handed out this weekend to those who have yet to make a pledge. The hope is to reach at least 150% to ensure the funding for the boiler that is in need of replacing.

Most Holy Trinity, Fowler held Witness Weekend during all Masses last weekend. More than 250 packets were personally distributed over the weekend. The parish is at 45% of goal with pledges of \$303,455 from 48 families. **Fr. Dennis Howard** asked everyone to complete and return their pledge card either this weekend or by Participation Weekend June 3 & 4.

St. Michael, Grand Ledge continues to see gifts in follow up to the committee phone calls. This week the parish has 358 commitments for \$635,471 or 64.5% of goal. **Fr. James Eisele's** follow up letter has been sent to all those who haven't responded to this point.

At **St. Gerard, Lansing** has reached 80% of goal with pledges of \$1,947,084 from 658 families. The follow up mailing has been sent last week to all those who have not yet responded.

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

Fr. Vincent and the campaign leadership team held their first Participation Weekend this past weekend and collected pledges totaling close to 25% of their goal. The new pledge total has increased to over \$150,900, 51% of the target goal from only 48 families! The plan is to strongly encourage participation over the next two weeks.

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

Fr. Bill and the campaign leadership team held their first Participation Weekend this past weekend and collected pledges totaling close to 25% of their goal. The new pledge total has increased to over \$375,875, 65% of the target goal from only 107 families! The plan is to strongly encourage participation over the next two weeks.