



With the summer hiatus over we renew our weekly reports for Witness to Hope. For the next week or two there will be reporting on some but not all Winter Wave parishes and Summer Wave parishes. Beginning in August we will begin to report on all parishes in the Summer Wave and those still actively fund raising from the Winter Wave.

Congratulations are in order for Fr. Vincent Van Doan and the people of Immaculate Conception, Milan who have surpassed their Witness to Hope goal last week. Fr. Vincent and his lay leaders worked very hard to achieve this success and we are so grateful to all of them for their hard work!

Please keep Bishop Boyea in your prayers as he has 3 very important Leadership Gift meetings next week.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

“God’s generosity cannot be outdone. Everything that we have is a gift from God, and whether we acknowledge it or not, He has given us more than we could ever know...”

Anonymous

Winter Wave Parishes

Holy Redeemer, Burton has reached and exceeded their base goal. As of July 27th 500 pledges have been received for a total \$1.1 million. The parish will continue to work towards their bonus goal of \$1,306,000 and a final mailing went out to parishioners this past week. The original campaign participation goal was 330 families and **Father Steve Anderson** is thrilled with the amazing response of his parishioners resulting in 151% of participation goal.

Church of the Resurrection, Lansing has received 258 pledges (143% of participation goal) totaling \$1,361,000, which represents 64% of the campaign goal of \$2.1 million for the parish’s combined campaign. **Fr. Steve Mattson** reports that his 1st follow-up

mailing in June produced good results and he sent a 2nd mailing this past week with the goal of 50 more pledges to help close the funding gap.

Fr. Bob Pienta and the **St. Joseph Shrine in Brooklyn** received pledges from 109 households taking them beyond 68% of goal. A follow up letter has been mailed to encourage all households to prayerfully consider a best sacrifice pledge to the *Witness to Hope* campaign.

At **St. Paul in Owosso** **Fr. Michael O'Brien** is grateful for the 240 households that have already pledged taking the parish beyond 85% of goal. **Fr. Mike** is hoping more parishioners will make their best sacrifice pledge soon.

Fr. Michael O'Brien and **St. Joseph, Owosso** received pledges from 122 households. A follow up letter has been mailed to encourage all households to prayerfully consider a best sacrifice pledge to support the pressing needs of the parish and wider church.

Cristo Rey, Lansing: Fr. Fred Thelen

Cristo Rey Church is at \$367,530, 92% of their goal, with 125 pledges. Follow up continues as we look forward to response to the Follow-Up letter that was recently mailed. Additional strategies are being reviewed to meet the goal – so close!!!

Fr. James Eisele at **St. Michael, Grand Ledge** has communicated to the parish of the progress of the campaign. The parish has received \$683,924 towards their goal for a total of 430 gifts. Celebrations continue for their progress in exceeding their participation goal.

Fr. John Klein at **St. Gerard, Lansing** spoke from the pulpit to exhort the parish to make their best sacrificial gift to the campaign. Father preached in his homily towards the Gospel passage Mt 13:1-23. Many responded generously through Father Klein's encouragement to consider the *Witness to Hope* campaign as a unique opportunity to sow seeds in rich ground for the future of our church. To date, the parish has received 880 commitments for a total of \$2,194,311.

Most Holy Trinity, Fowler has reached 125% of goal for a total of \$838,395 off of 321 gifts. **Fr. Dennis Howard** has continued to update the progress of the campaign to the parish and has communicated that further contributions to *Witness to Hope* will go directly towards the parish case.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Lansing – The parish has finished this wave with 144% of their goal with over 65% of the parish participating. **Fr. Joseph Kim** is still working to get more pledges as cost of replacing the boiler has become higher than anticipated.

Summer Wave

St. Mary, Morrice is in the beginning stages of organizing for the *Witness to Hope* campaign. **Fr. James Lothamer PSS** will be serving at St. Mary's for the upcoming year and is eager to assist in the development of the campaign. Initial visits are being scheduled and the calendar is being set to make the campaign a great success for the parish.

Fr. Jonathan Perrotta at **St. Mary, Durand** and **St. Joseph, Gaines** has spoken to the parish council and finance council about the campaign. The staff is eager to begin the campaign efforts and is excited for the approval of the parish cases to make the needed renovations in their parish.

Fr. Dwight Ezop at the **Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue** has presented the campaign to his staff and parish councils. Father is excited that this campaign will be an opportunity for the two recently merged parishes to come together as one faith community to build a future of our Catholic faith for the next generation.

St. John the Baptist, Howell has begun the initial steps to prepare for the campaign. **Fr. Francis George** is taking great initiative to prepare the parish brochure for our production process. The calendar is being set in the parish to provide families the opportunity to listen and learn about the *Witness to Hope* campaign and prayerfully consider their support.

St. Francis of Assisi in Ann Arbor, will be conducting a combined campaign with a goal of \$8 million. The parish share funds will be used for the construction of a new Ministry Center to be built adjacent to the church. **Father James Conlon** has formed a special new Building Committee to help oversee the project.