



This week we provide the first early report from the Summer Wave of parishes as we continue to work with several parishes in the Winter Wave who are still striving to reach either the financial or participation goal. The Diocese of Lansing continues to shine as the people of God in mid-Michigan are working very hard to achieve success and build a strong future for the Church.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Parish News

“Give as the sun gives light, a glad outpouring of the best that is in you.”

Anonymous

Christ the King Parish in Ann Arbor will be hosting parish information sessions in the last week of August to share the case elements and engage more parish families in the Witness to Hope campaign effort. The campaign cabinet is working behind the scenes to prepare for a September campaign announcement and the commencement of campaign activities under the leadership of **Fr. Ed Fride**.

Fr. Tim MacDonald is in the process of nominating and inviting campaign leaders for **Our Lady of Fatima** in Michigan Center. We are in the early stages of preparing for the campaign, beginning the engagement phase with the parish family.

We have begun our preparation and engagement phase work at **St. Patrick Parish** in Ann Arbor with **Fr. Tom Wasilewski** and we will be meeting with the parish council in the first week of September.

Holy Redeemer, Burton has reached and exceeded their base goal. As of August 8th 506 pledges have been received for a total \$1,108,133 in pledges. The parish will continue to work towards their bonus goal of \$1,306,000. The special mailing that went out to parishioners 2 weeks ago continues to have good response with 3 gifts this past

week totaling \$4,000. **Father Steve Anderson** reports that the average pledge is about \$2,200 and he continues to encourage his parishioners to keep going to reach their bonus goal.

Church of the Resurrection, Lansing has received 263 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 parishioners are responding generously to his 2nd follow-up mailing.

St. Francis of Assisi in Ann Arbor, with a goal of \$8 million for their combined campaign is gearing up for the start of leadership meetings. Their parish share funds will support a new Ministry Center to be built adjacent to the Church. **Father James** has formed a special Building Committee that is assisting with early building designs and renderings.

Fr. Tom Firestone and staff at the **Catholic Community of Flint** have worked diligently to finalize their case for support to further develop parish life through Evangelization, Education and Charitable Outreach especially at the St. Luke N.E.W Life Center where lives are saved and lives are changed daily.

Fr. Philip Schmitter at **Christ the King parish in Flint** is doing an excellent job articulating both the diocesan and parish cases for support. The parish case is centered on outreach and evangelization to empower the poor and share the Catholic faith with current and future generations in Flint.

St. John the Evangelist, Fenton is off to a great start thanks to **Fr. Robert Copeland, Pastor, Fr. Todd Koenigsknecht, Associate Pastor** and very enthusiastic and motivated staff. The parish share funds will be used to reduce Debt, upgrade Facilities and make needed improvements to the historic stone Chapel.

Fr. James Mangan at **St. Matthew, Flint** has been reaching out to motivated parishioners to rally support for the *Witness to Hope* campaign. The parish case will drive Evangelization, Education and Charitable Outreach to further develop the distinct witness of **St. Matthew** parish to the wonder and beauty of the Catholic faith in downtown Flint.

St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing is in the process of reviewing research and the calendar is almost complete. They have received their completed brochure. **Fr. Mark** is away on retreat this week.

St. Therese, Lansing has completed a draft of research and their case is approved. The campaign director met with the councils to educate the lay leaders on the campaign. **Fr. John** will begin engagement visits with them next week.

St. Catherine Laboure, Concord has begun engagement visits and leadership visits. **Fr. Tim** is praying about his own gift. They have received their completed brochure.

St. Mary Star of The Sea, in Jackson is a wonderful parish community that is undergoing a restoration of its beautiful stain glass windows in the sanctuary. **Fr. Timothy Nelson** is excited and looking forward to the Witness to Hope campaign allowing for the completion of the restoration project. The parish is working through this first organizational phase, and is in the process of retrieving and reviewing their complete parish lists.

St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti is a small beautiful community that is looking forward to the Witness to Hope campaign allowing them to complete their case needs. **Fr. Pieter vanRooyen and Deacon Stan Kukla** are working through this first organizational phase, and are in the process of retrieving and reviewing their complete parish list.

Cristo Rey, Lansing Fr. Fred Thelen

Follow up calls continue as Cristo Rey Church gets closer to reaching their goal of \$400,000. Responses to the follow up letter continue to come in, and reminders continue at weekend liturgies to turn in pledge cards. At \$389,290, they are 97% of their goal, with 134 pledges!

James Lothamer PSS at St. Mary, Morrice has been working with parish staff to finalize the parish roster. Fr. Lothamer has continued to reach out to key parishioners to engage them into *Witness to Hope* campaign in a variety of leadership roles.

Fr. Jonathan Perrotta at **St. Mary, Durand** and **St. Joseph, Gaines** is meeting with the campaign cabinet members to make a contribution to the campaign. Individuals with key parishioners are being scheduled and families are begging to pray about their best sacrificial gift.

Fr. Dwight Ezop at the **Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue** is scheduling individual visits to parishioners for their support of the *Witness to Hope* campaign. Fr. Ezop is working diligently with the parish staff to build excitement and support on the parish level.

St. John the Baptist, Howell is in the last stages of cleaning up the parish roster. **Fr. Francis George** is inviting families to consider participating in numerous leadership roles in the campaign to support the efforts to raise funds.

St. Mary, Pinckney – Fr. Dan Kogut is familiarizing himself with all of the case elements and is preparing to do his leadership meetings. Dates and times have been set for leadership meetings. He will conduct his first one next week.

Sacred Heart, Hudson – Fr. Joe Krupp is back from retreat and ready to start his leadership meetings. Dates and times have been blocked out and he is hoping to do as many in a day as possible. Dates have been set for parish gatherings and mass activities.

St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – Fr. Bob Roggenbuck has blocked out times in his schedule to begin his leadership meetings. A cabinet meeting has also been set up. He is hoping to get as much done before the school year starts for the students as well as for himself.

St. Mary of Good Counsel, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS has set aside time in his schedule to begin leadership meetings. They will begin shortly after his vacation. A calendar has also been set for all of the mass announcements and activities.

St. Joseph, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS will be making himself as available as possible for the events at St. Joseph. Deacon Leonard Brown is generously offering his

time to help out with leadership meetings, cabinet meetings, and other campaign related parish events.

St. Isidore, Laingsburg and **Holy Family, Ovid** cases are approved and the draft brochures are being prepared for **Fr. Pamment's** review. The parish roster is being edited and prepared for production. The campaign cabinet invitations are being prepared.

St. Pius X, Flint case was approved. **Fr. Anthony Strause, KHS** sent out the campaign cabinet invitation letters this week. **Fr. Anthony** recruited his prayer champions and is distributing prayer cards. **Fr. Anthony** also made his best sacrificial pledge to the campaign this week.

SS Charles and Helena, Clio and **St. Francis Xavier, Ottisville** cases were approved. **Fr. Ken** also sent out the campaign cabinet invitation letters and will be meeting with his cabinets soon.

Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton are well along in the organizing stages of the *Witness to Hope* campaign. **Fr. Andrew Czajkowski** has recruited his campaign cabinet and set the campaign schedule for the first cabinet meeting, the leadership meetings, and the all ministry meetings and announcement weekend. **Fr. Andy** will be on Pilgrimage later this month.