



Welcome to the Witness to Hope Weekly Update. Each week we will keep you posted on campaign progress at each parish participating in the Pilot Wave and how much has been raised towards our \$65 million goal!

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Bishop Boyea

Bishop has appointed a Campaign Cabinet that is being led by Fr. Tim MacDonald, VG. There are several pastors and lay leaders on the Cabinet and they will be assisting Bishop with setting campaign policies, leadership gift strategy and visits and overall accountability and transparency for Witness to Hope. The clergy members of the Cabinet are: **Fr. Tim MacDonald, Fr. Brendan Walsh, Fr. Tom Firestone, Fr. Mark Inglot, Fr. Joe Krupp and Fr. David Speicher.** The lay members are **John & Marybeth Pirich, Joe & Kathleen Thorrez and Bill and Cindi Pressprich.** Two additional lay leader couples will be added in the near future.

Bishop Boyea has already completed 3 leadership gift requests from members of the wider Church family. All have been asked to take some time in prayer to make a Decision of Faith.

Bishop Boyea has begun to schedule dates to visit Pilot Wave parishes during the campaign to spend time with people at the parish and to share his vision about why Witness to Hope.

Parish News

“NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESS”

This past weekend, the parishioners of **St. Mary on the Lake** responded to **Fr. Joe Krupp’s** challenge. Father shared with his parish family what he had prayerfully decided to commit to the *Witness to Hope* campaign. Many were moved to increase

their own gifts and we are pleased to announce that St. Mary's has successfully reached their campaign goal of \$350,000...

As a pilot parish, Fr. Joe and his parishioners have set a powerful example for others to follow. Bishop Boyea and all campaign leaders are most grateful for this wonderful success and look forward to all parishes across the Diocese following in the footsteps of the good people of St. Mary's.

Positive momentum is critical in fundraising campaigns and in life. In fact, it is true in any venture-*"nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm!"* At **Queen of the Miraculous Medal, in Jackson**, we are well on our way to successfully raising our goal of \$2,875,000 because of the genuine and contagious enthusiasm of the Pastor, **Fr. Tim MacDonald**.

Fr. Tim blends a quick wit with his unparalleled advocacy of the significant mission of the Diocese of Lansing, Queens and our Catholic Faith. While he always points out that we are the experts, he is taking charge and leading through his powerful enthusiasm, passion and sense of humor. Grateful to him for his leadership, we are nearly approaching the \$1,000,000 mark in pledges.

Fr. Tim clearly illustrates his devotion to his vocation as Priest and his belief that his is a *"life worth living"* ...Thanks to all who have so generously participated thus far as Witnesses to Hope...

Church of the Holy Family in Grand Blanc is off to a great start! **Msgr. Jerry Vincke and Fr. Gary Koenigsknecht** have set the pace with their generous leadership gifts to Witness to Hope. They are planning to "go public" about the gifts on Announcement Weekend: September 24 and 25. Msgr. Vincke has a special homily planned which will cover the Wider Church and Parish Case elements, as well a very personal story which will undoubtedly inspire parishioners. The parish has 3 home gatherings set for September and 4 in October. The Knights of Columbus have made a very generous pledge and will host all of the large parish gatherings on the weekend of October 8 and 9 at their annual pancake breakfast. A real team effort!

The Catholic Community of St. Jude in Dewitt has received to date 9 pledges with a total of **\$133,950** on a goal of **\$2,500,000**. **Father Robert Irish** is now beginning the process of conducting leadership visits with parishioners. In addition, Father continues to meet with the leaders of the parish forming the Cabinet who will serve an important role in

supporting the Church with the **Witness to Hope Campaign**.

Father David Howell has begun working with key Cabinet leaders to promote the **Witness to Hope Campaign** at **St. Mary Magdalen** in Brighton. On September 8th the Cabinet met as a group with Father for the first time, to discuss ways to prayerfully inspire others to participate as a volunteer and during small group meetings. In addition, the parish has begun to generate support for the campaign overall, with 7 pledges totaling \$74,200 on a goal of \$1,360,388.

St. James, Mason conducted its announcement weekend this past weekend. During the announcement weekend the campaign cabinet and volunteers were blessed at the 9am mass. **Fr. Kusi Cabona** shared his excitement with the parishioners and is encouraging them to sign up for times to meet with him after mass to discuss the campaign.

SS. Cornelius & Cyprian, Leslie will host their All in Ministry meeting on Tuesday night. **Fr. Kusi Cabona** is eager to get the campaign under way. He is also going to have announcement weekend at Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian this upcoming weekend!

At **St. Rita, Clarklake**, **Fr. Tom Helfrich** did an excellent job coordinating the All-In ministry meeting with great attendance and great questions. Father Tom continues to meet with parishioners to build upon the generosity mentioned over the last couple of weeks of individual visits.

The All-In Ministry meeting at **St. Thomas the Apostle in Ann Arbor** was well attended and successful thanks to the leadership of **Fr. Bill Ashbaugh**. **Father Bill** is scheduling parish hall and rectory receptions for September and early October.

Already with 18 gifts and a successful All Ministry meeting on September 12, **Holy Rosary** in Flint has commitments of \$142,000 or 24% of the parish goal. **Fr. Roy Horning** has been clear in the needs for both the parish and the diocese. With the public announcement this weekend, Father will be speaking of the campaign, the early results, and the importance of everyone to attend one of the upcoming receptions.

Fr. Mark Kuchar and the campaign team at **Saint Mark the Evangelist** in Goodrich are off to a fast start with commitments of \$140,000 toward its \$900,000 goal. Father has completed many individual calls on the top 25 prospects, and the parish is now moving into the gathering phase with five currently planned. Members of the campaign team will be in the Narthex following Masses to answer questions and urge people to join Father in attending one of the upcoming receptions.

Saint Mary, Queen of Angels in Swartz Creek has formed its leadership committee. With **Fr. Louis Ekka**, the team has outline a series of gathering receptions over the next three weeks. In addition special ministry presentations are being made in groups and specifically to the parish's largest three ministries, the Prayer Shawl ministry, Catholic Women's Group and the Knights of Columbus.

At **Holy Spirit, Brighton Fr. John Rocus**, has put together a great team and they are off to a great start. Chairs Jeff and Teresa Reseigh are leading the efforts along with a very solid cabinet. Announcement weekend is September 17/18 and the In-Home receptions will begin shortly after. They are currently at \$56,750 or 10% of goal.

Msgr. Bernard Reilly is excited to have the Filice and Lynch families co-chairing the Campaign at **St. Mary Cathedral Parish, Lansing**. Announcement weekend is September 17/18 and they are looking forward to beginning the leadership calls and In-Home receptions. They are currently at \$40,000.

Fr. Jeff Poll has begun recruiting campaign leaders at **Light of Christ in Deerfield**. Parish gatherings at each of the two parish worship sites will highlight bringing the parish family together to hear the campaign message and learn more about the parish needs. Announcement Weekend is this weekend.

Fr. David Reamsnyder has recruited his campaign co-chairs at **St. Anthony of Padua, Hillsdale** this weekend. The parish All-In Ministry meeting will be held on September 27th. Fr. David is excited to launch the campaign effort, which will help address important capital and ministerial needs at the parish.