



**Congratulations...to Fr. David Howell and the people of St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Brighton for surpassing their campaign goal. Seven parishes have now reached their goals and several more will join them soon. The momentum is really building as the Pilot Wave enters its final weeks. Thanks to everyone at these wonderful parishes who have been so generous and the pastors and volunteers who worked so faithfully.**

**Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director**

### **Parish News**

There were only two classes of people who heard the cry Christmas night:  
shepherds and wise men.

Shepherds: those who know they know nothing.

Wise men: those who know they do not know everything.

Only the very simple and very learned discovered God...*Venerable Fulton J. Sheen*

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**St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton** parish community held its first participation weekend this past weekend. **Fr. David Howell** presented the campaign and over two hundred and thirty (230) St. Mary Magdalen families responded, pledging over \$500,000. The new pledge total is \$1.5 million, 110% of goal. They will wrap up the participation phase this weekend. Congratulations to everyone at **St. Mary Magdalen** for a very successful campaign.

**St. Anthony of Padua, Hillsdale** finished their second participation weekend this past weekend and has now surpassed a pledge total of over \$540,000, 107% of the goal. **Fr. David Reamsnyder** is now encouraging all parishioners to participate to help increase the pledge total over 120% of goal!

As we wait for the coming of Christ, we anxiously await the blessings of the Witness to Hope campaign and the gift it is to **St. Mary on the Lake**. We are so grateful for the generosity of our parish family and their contributions totaling \$452,000...we will continue to pray for more participation from those not yet involved.

**Queen of the Miraculous Medal** parish is celebrating success in reaching our \$2,875,000 goal but we are still hoping and praying that more members of the parish family will choose to participate. Nearly 38% of the parish has joined in this historic effort and within the next couple of weeks we will mail an invitation to all those who have not yet participated to join those that have so positively responded.

Participation weekend at **St. Jude** in DeWitt has been moved to early January 2017 since so many are still discerning their personal requests. At the request of the campaign leadership team and Fr. Bob, we felt it most prudent to allow the process of packet distribution and decision to run its course. All volunteers and parish staff have done a most admirable job of personally connecting with approximately 600 families. We anticipate great success as the campaign progresses...

**Holy Spirit – Brighton: Fr. John** and team are in the follow up stage and planning for a victory celebration very soon. They have had 217 families make a gift to the Witness to Hope Campaign or 58% of the Parish raising so far \$533,287. **Fr. John** has been very excited to see how many families truly made a spiritual gift to the campaign. We still need families to pray about make a commitment to the Campaign as the Parish still needs about \$17,063 to reach goal. **Holy Spirit** is currently at 96% and climbing up fast.

**St. Mary Cathedral – Lansing: Msgr. Reilly** would like to congratulate the entire team and Parish for reaching their goal of \$557,750. He would like to ask that families continue to pray about making a gift to the Parish before the end of the year for Witness to Hope. Currently the parish has seen 179 families celebrating their gift to the Witness to Hope Campaign raising \$611,210 or 109% of goal.

**Light of Christ – Deerfield/Blissfield: Fr. Jeff** and team hosted their follow-up weekend this past week. They currently have 114 participating families in the Witness to Hope Campaign raising over \$132,000. There continues to be a lot of excitement and great enthusiasm for the Campaign at the parish.

**Holy Rosary in Flint** has reached 82% of its campaign goal with gifts from 160 families and counting. With \$491,191 in gifts/pledges **Fr. Horning** is preparing his team for the final solicitation requests. Letters to those who have not returned a pledge card are in

the mail. Additionally, Thursday (12/10) there will be a training program for the calling team. Calls will be made over the next week encouraging everyone to join in making goal.

**Fr. Kuchar** and the team at **Saint Mark the Evangelist** in **Goodrich** will conduct Participation Weekend at all Masses December 10 – 11. It will build on the \$614,976 toward its \$900,000 goal. So far, 135 families or roughly 35% of the parish has made a contribution. The committee is now planning some additional steps to be completed in the first quarter of 2017.

**Saint Mary Queen of Angels** in **Swartz Creek** is realizing steady increases in participation and giving. Currently, 140 families have made a commitment toward **Fr. Ekka's** participation goal of having at least half the parish make a gift to the campaign.

**Fr. Tom Helfrich** and **St. Rita** in **Clarklake** have moved their total pledged beyond the \$1,060,000 mark with 284 households on board. **Fr. Tom** continues to inspire wider participation to greatly exceed their \$1,200,000 target which will fund Church and facility upgrades.

**Fr. Bill Ashbaugh** and **Fr. Todd Koenigsknecht** and **St. Thomas the Apostle, Ann Arbor** have soared beyond \$2,166,000 toward their \$3,000,000 goal with just 217 households. **Fr. Bill** and **Fr. Todd** are confident that hundreds of more families will step up with their *best sacrifice* pledge.

**Holy Family**, Grand Blanc continues at a steady pace with 445 gifts and \$2,944,000 pledged thus far. This past week, **Fr. Gary Koenigsknecht**, along with a campaign volunteer, solicited four funeral homes in the community for the Witness to Hope campaign. Holy Family's capital improvement projects include a new Gathering Space at the church to better serve the parish's bereavement ministry and Fr. Gary's requests for support were well received by the funeral directors.

**St. James, Mason & Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian, Leslie** have completed their campaigns. The final Steering Committees are meeting. **Fr. Kusi** was integral to the success of the campaign. A giant thank you and congratulations to the parish staff, lay leaders and priests (Fr. Kusi & Fr. Jim)!