



**With Thanksgiving approaching parishes are kicking their efforts in high gear to distribute packets and receive gifts. We are closing in on \$65 million and beyond!**

**Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director**

### **Parish News**

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*“In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.”*

*Philippians 4:6-7*

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At **Christ the King**, **Fr. Ed Fride** is continuing his leadership visits as we prepare for parish-wide gatherings and ministry meetings. We are engaging the parish leadership team to begin reminder calls to those that we have visited. We are beginning packet distribution this week at ministry meetings, and after Witness Weekend Masses next week.

**Fr. Tim MacDonald** continues with pastor visits at **Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center**. We will conduct parish gatherings and packet distribution the weekend of November 18/19...(we are currently just under 70%of the campaign goal).

**Old St. Patrick Parish** continues with individual pastor visits (12 more this week) and we are now sending reminder emails on our first requests. Packet distribution will begin next week as we engage members of the various parish ministries. We will be having our parish-wide gatherings beginning the weekend of November 11/12. We are presenting to the St. Patrick Cemetery Association and the Knights of Columbus in two weeks...

At the **Catholic Community of Flint Fr. Tom Firestone** is encouraging all parishioners to reflect deeply on their support of the historic *Witness to Hope* campaign. Parish share funds will further build up 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.

At **Christ the King in Flint Fr. Philip Schmitter** has inspired many by submitting his own *best sacrifice* 5-year pledge. Parishioners are responding enthusiastically to **Fr. Phil's** invitation to consider gratitude, joy and love as spiritual considerations for giving. Parish share funds will drive outreach and evangelization to empower the poor and propagate the Catholic faith in Flint.

**Fr. David Harvey** and **Fr. Todd Koenigsknecht** spoke at all the Masses over the last two weekends on how *Witness to Hope* will strengthen **St. John the Evangelist in Fenton** and the wider church. Parishioners responded positively to their nice challenge to further build up parish life. Parish share funds will reduce Debt, upgrade Facilities and make needed improvements to the historic stone Chapel.

**Fr. James Mangan** is sharing his inspiration on how the *Witness to Hope* campaign will strengthen parish life at **St. Matthew** in downtown **Flint**. **Fr. James** is encouraging parish leaders to make early pledge decisions to kick-start much needed campaign momentum. Parish share funds will enhance Evangelization, Education and Charitable Outreach.

### **St. Casimir, Lansing**

#### **Fr. Bill Lugg**

Last week's Seniors' Coffee and Donut reception was a success. A presentation was made to the Knights of Columbus this week. Announcements from the pulpit continue to remind parishioners to pick up their packets; over 50% of the packets have been distributed.

### **Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing**

#### **Fr. John Byers**

Packet distribution continues, over 40% of parishioners have received packets. A presentation was made to the Knights of Columbus with Fr John presenting the parish case. Presentations at ministries meetings continue. Building plans for the new gym/multi-purpose facility, on display in the Gathering Area, continue to generate discussion and excitement for the future.

**St. Thomas/St. John, East Lansing** is hosting the two final home gatherings this week. **Fr. Mark** is continuing to try and meet with lead donors. **Fr. Gary & Fr. Ryan** will lead witness weekend at St. John this weekend. The parish has raised \$2,135,114 for 50% of the goal.

**St. Therese, Lansing** had a successful Witness Weekend and has mailed the additional packets. **Fr. John** is continuing to following up with pending requests. The parish is over \$400,000 towards its goal.

**St. Catherine Laboure, Concord** held participation weekend. **Fr. Tim** came so close to goal and will do some follow up upon his return from vacation. The parish has raised \$349,106, which is 87% of the goal.

**St. Pius X, Flint Township – Fr. Anthony Strouse** - All pledge packets are ready to mail. Fr. Strouse is including a special message to parishioners who missed picking up their packets after Mass. The campaign cabinet will meet next week and discuss the final phase of the campaign – Participation Weekend.

**SS. Charles and Helena, Clio – Fr. Ken Coughlin** – This weekend was Witness Weekend. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Walther, for supporting the Witness to Hope Campaign with your testimony and encouragement. The remaining packets were mailed this week. Thank you to Judy S., Judy L, Helen P., Pat G., Mary C., Janelle L. for stuffing, stamping, and sealing pledge packets. Approximately 400 packets were mailed. This means that about 232 families picked up their packets after Mass or at a reception. This is good news for the success of the campaign.

**St. Francis Xavier, Otisville – Fr. Ken Coughlin** – A lead donor made a significant pledge this week. The prayer champions continue to meet and pray for the success of the campaign. Praise God for an answer to prayers of support for the parish.

**The Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament, Davison and Burton - Fr. Andrew Czajkowski and Fr. Bob Bacik.** Another 300 packets were distributed after Masses last weekend. The Campaign Committee will continue to distribute packets after Masses for the next few weekends. Thank you to the Altar Society and Guilds for including a brief campaign information sharing and packet distribution at their meeting this week.

**St. Isidore, Laingsburg - Fr. Duaine Pamment** – All remaining packets were mailed out week in anticipation of Participation Weekend. Thank you to Parish Secretary Sharon Gillespie for assisting with the mailing.

**Holy Family, Ovid – Fr. Duaine Pamment** – All remaining packets were mailed out week in anticipation of Participation Weekend. Thank you to Parish Secretary Sharon Gillespie for assisting with the mailing.

**St. Mary Star of The Sea, in Jackson** is a generous and faith filled community, composed of Stanislaus Kostka, and the Community of Sacred Heart. All three communities are prayerfully considering what their sacrificial participation in the campaign is going to be, and have started making their pledges, as we now have seven families who have pledged a total of \$65,000. **Fr. Timothy Nelson** is working hard at getting done as many leadership solicitations as possible.

**St. Joseph, in Ypsilanti** is a blessed community of wonderful people, who will be receiving their packets this weekend. **Deacon Stan and Fr. Pieter van Rooyen** are doing wonderful job continuing to talk about the campaign and really helping the parishioners understand how the Witness to Hope diocese campaign will be a blessing for all.

**Fr. James Lothamer PSS** at **St. Mary, Morrice** continues to drive decisions of faith among the parish. Over the weekend, Marty Finucane gave his testimony about his convictions in regards to *Witness to Hope* and exhorted the congregation to make their best sacrificial gift to the Campaign. To date, the parish has raised 54% of their overall goal. Fr. Jim will be leading the parish into Participation Weekend as he continues to follow up with families in their prayerful support.

**Fr. Jonathan Perrotta** at **St. Mary, Durand** and **St. Joseph, Gaines** continues to drive participation at the parish. More follow up calls and emails have been made this week to bring more families into their decision of faith. This weekend, Fr. Jon will be hosting Witness Weekend and three families will present their testimony in support of *Witness to Hope*.

**Fr. Dwight Ezop** at the **Catholic Community of St. Mary and St. Ann, Charlotte / Bellevue** is building momentum and enthusiasm at the parish. This past weekend, the parish held Witness Weekend at each worship space. To date, the parish has raised \$260,670 from 47 families – bringing them to 51% of the overall goal. Deacon Tom Fogle is making more effort to follow up with families who have not made their decision in support of *Witness to Hope*.

**Fr. Francis George at St. John the Baptist, Howell** held Witness Weekend during each weekend Mass. Three families presented their testimony in support of *Witness to Hope* and eagerly encouraged families to pick up their personalized packets. As a result, 264 families picked up their packets and are praying about their sacrificial gift to the Campaign. Follow up calls and emails continue to be made to help build more participation at St. John.

**St. Mary, Pinckney – Fr. Dan Kogut** is over 70% of goal going into Participation Weekend. Everything is ready to go for that this weekend. **Fr. Dan** has worked on his messaging and is optimistic for this weekend.

**Sacred Heart, Hudson – Fr. Joe Krupp** is within striking distance of the parish goal after their participation weekend this past weekend. A strategy is being formed as they prepare for follow up weekend.

**St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti – Fr. Bob Roggenbuck** has continued with leadership meetings. This week he was able to connect with his top donors of the parish. Messaging continues to be shared at mass and packets will be available the next two weekends.

**St. Mary of Good Counsel, Adrian –Fr. Tom Murphy, OSFS** had a witness speaker at one of the masses this past weekend. This weekend there will be speakers at the remaining masses. Packets remain available for parishioners to pick up.

**St. Joseph, Adrian –Deacon Leonard Brown** continue to push the message of the campaign to the parish. Last weekend long time parishioners gave an impassioned sharing for witness weekend. Many packets were picked up and they will be available for pick up one more weekend.

**St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor** has held Witness Weekend with 7 speakers at all Masses. Each witness talk was very inspirational with many positive comments from parishioners after Mass. Close to 1,000 campaign packets have been distributed and the 1<sup>st</sup> first of three home receptions was held. This weekend there will be another home reception and remaining packets have been mailed to all families. **Fr. James Conlon** is announcing that the parish is over \$2 million in pledges from 200 families against the goal of \$8 million.

**St. Elizabeth, Tecumseh, Michigan (Fr. Dan Wheeler)**

The campaign hosted Bishop Boyea this past week and is preparing for Witness Weekend. The parish team continues to encourage the 42 families that are discerning their decision to make their decision soon. The current pledge total is \$25,350 from 6 households.

**St. Andrew, Saline, Michigan (Fr. Francis Mossholder)**

The campaign hosted Bishop Boyea this past week and over 70 people were in attendance. The campaign team is preparing for Witness Weekend and the showing of the DVD this weekend, November 11 and 12. There are now 83 households discerning their decision and support of the campaign and requests totaling about \$600,000.