



**This will be our last update of 2016. Thanks to the pastors and people of our Pilot Parishes for a great effort this wave. We will continue our efforts in January with the Pilots, as several more parishes will reach their goals soon. With Christmas just days away, the entire Campaign Team would like to wish all of you a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.**

**Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director**

### **Parish News**

*“The simple shepherds heard the voice of an angel and found their Lamb;  
the wise men saw the light of a star and found their Wisdom.  
May we hear Him and find Him in our hearts this Christmas.”*

*Venerable Fulton Sheen*

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The parish family of **St. Mary on the Lake** is looking forward to starting the projects that Witness to Hope has allowed the parish to fund. In January, we will be starting with the installation of new windows and doors. Following that project and later in the spring we will resurface our parking lot and perhaps add air conditioning because of the generous response to the Witness to Hope campaign.

Parishioners of **Queen of the Miraculous Medal** parish continue to deliver their pledge responses to the parish office. We are most grateful; as we have now exceeded the \$3,000,000 level. We look forward to the construction of Vincentian Hall beginning in January...

Approximately 300 families have now made their pledges at **St. Jude in DeWitt** and we know that all members of our community have received their campaign packets, either in person or through the mail. It is our hope and prayer that we can and will

successfully raise the \$2.5 million needed for our projects as we conduct our participation weekend in early January.

**Holy Rosary in Flint** is making calls to all those who have not yet responded to the campaign. Led by **Fr. Horning** the parish has 175 pledges for \$516,221.

**Fr. Kuchar** and the team at **Saint Mark the Evangelist in Goodrich** continued to reach out following Participation Weekend. The parish now has commitments of \$645,675 from 157 donors. Following Christmas the campaign team will meet to review continued follow up activity to reach those families that made a one-time gift, and others who completed pledge cards but didn't complete a gift amount.

**Saint Mary Queen of Angels in Swartz Creek** has realized gifts from 180 members of the parish. Total commitments are now \$336,014.

#### **Holy Spirit – Brighton**

**Fr. John** would like to congratulate the entire parish and leadership team for the parish reaching goal. They have had 220 families make a gift to the Witness to Hope Campaign or 58% of the Parish raising so far \$554,387.

#### **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 \$622,160 or 109% of goal. **Msgr.** Is also looking forward to the parish victory celebration in January.

#### **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.

**Fr. Tom Helfrich** and **St. Rita in Clarklake** have moved their total pledged beyond the \$1,100,000 mark with 299 households on board. Fr. Tom is hopeful for even wider participation to greatly exceed their \$1,200,000 target which will fund Church and facility upgrades.

**Fr. Bill Ashbaugh** and **Fr. Todd Koenigsknecht** at **St. Thomas the Apostle, Ann Arbor** have received \$2,246,690 toward their \$3,000,000 goal from just 245 households. Fr. Bill and Fr. Todd are confident that many more families are planning to submit their *best sacrifice* pledge.

**Holy Family, Grand Blanc** continues at a steady pace with 483 gifts and \$3,146,182 pledged thus far. The parish continues to make wonderful progress towards its \$4 million goal.

**St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton** parish community continues to make significant progress. The new pledge total is over \$1.8 million, 117% of goal. **Fr. David** is still hoping to reach a much higher total before the campaign concludes.

**St. Anthony of Padua, Hillsdale** has sent its final follow up mailing to all parishioners who have not yet participated in the campaign. **Fr. David Reamsnyder** is encouraging all parishioners to participate to help increase the pledge total over 120% of goal!