



Our thoughts and prayers have been with our pastors and diocesan clergy this week as they gathered for their annual Clergy Convocation. The Campaign Staff also joins in prayer for the repose of the soul of Fr. Ed Ertzbischoff and for the people of St. Joseph Parish, Ypsilanti. We look forward to a busy week next week as Campaign activity gears up post-Convocation. In preparation for the Diocesan Assembly on October 21 & 22, members of the Campaign Staff will be present at a Witness to Hope booth to answer any campaign related questions for pastors and lay leaders.

Tony Gwiazdowski, Campaign Executive Director

Bishop Boyea

Bishop will be visiting with three families this week to ask for their leadership support for Witness to Hope. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to open the hearts and minds of all present to supporting the Sacred Mission of our Church.

Parish News

**“God entrusts us with money not to build a kingdom on earth,
but to build His Kingdom in heaven...”**

Gifts continue to come in at **St. Mary on the Lake, Manitou Beach** and it is excited about the challenge of trying to reach the \$500,000 level. This coming weekend we will wrap up the formal solicitation of the Witness to Hope Campaign by inviting those who have not yet made a pledge to join those who have. **Fr. Joe** is profoundly grateful for the generosity of this wonderful community he pray’s for all the families and individuals who have given so generously.

Queen of the Miraculous Medal Parish, Jackson will begin family campaign gatherings over the next two weeks. The parish has now surpassed one-third of its goal from a small number of parishioners, and is now inviting all parishioners to join with support throughout the month of October. **Queens’** family members are demonstrating great generosity to support the Diocese and the projects that we have identified for the

parish. God has been so good to the parish and they continue to pray for the success of the Witness to Hope campaign.

The Catholic Community of St. Jude, Dewitt has received to date 34 pledges with a total of **\$530,600** on a goal of **\$2,500,000**. On Wednesday September 29th, **Fr. Irish** conducted the All in Ministry Meeting with the assistance of the cabinet. The meeting went very well with over 80 participants in attendance. Also, additional packets were distributed at the end of the church presentation with the hope of many being returned over the next few weeks. The church leaders present were very inspired to assist in leading the *Witness to Hope Campaign* with several volunteers agreeing to sign up to help out with their time, talent and treasure in many cases. Over the next month several small group gatherings are going to take place and the planning of those dates are in the planning stage of being facilitated.

While **Fr. David** has been away in the Holy Land the staff and the cabinet has continued to prepare for the official launch of the *Witness to Hope Campaign* at **St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton**, which took place this past weekend. The parish has begun to generate support for the campaign overall, with 10 pledges totaling **\$79,900** on a goal of **\$1,360,388**. Over the next month several small group gatherings will be taking place, with **Bishop Boyea** attending the church presentation on October 15th.

At **St. Rita, Clarklake** several families have handed their *best sacrifice* pledge card to **Fr. Tom Helfrich**. Fr. Tom is deeply grateful for these *decisions of faith* that help build enthusiasm and momentum. An evening parish hall gathering is planned for Thursday, October 12 at 7pm and a *Witness to Hope* coffee gathering is scheduled for the following morning after Mass.

Fr. Bill Ashbaugh and **Fr. Todd Koenigsknecht** at **St. Thomas the Apostle, Ann Arbor** continue their work to meet with parishioners at well attended rectory gatherings. Our two amazing Co-Chair couples continue to support **Fr. Bill** and **Fr. Todd** at each rectory gathering. To build campaign momentum the priests are inviting gathering attendees to please reflect deeply on their sacrificial gift and submit their pledge cards soon.

SS. Cornelius & Cyprian, Leslie will be hosting another parish wide gathering at mass on Sunday. This will be an opportunity for parishioners to pick up their gift packets. The parishioners are eager for the Bishop's visit on October 19th. **Fr. Jim** spoke about the campaign at Mass and **Fr. Kusi** is excited that the parish has raised over 20% of its goal thus far.

St. James, Mason is getting ready for two upcoming home gatherings. The parish gathering last week had more than 75 attendees. The Bishop will also visit the parish next week. The parish has raised over \$125,000 and more lead visits are occurring. **Fr. Kusi** was excited at the amount of gifts he received at Mass this past weekend.

Holy Spirit, Brighton: Fr. John and team are preparing for the first wave of parish gatherings hosted by the Knights of Columbus, and the Women's Guild will be hosting a senior luncheon on Oct 18th. **Fr. John** thank's everyone who hosted an In-Home reception and is looking forward to see the results coming in to the parish. **Fr. John** plans to cross over the 50% by mid-October they are currently at 30% and climbing up fast.

St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing: Msgr. Reilly and team are gearing up for the first gatherings starting with their In-home gatherings on October 13th. Currently they are hosting several trainings events and preparation ahead of all their parish wide gatherings. **St. Mary Cathedral** is currently at 24.2% of goal.

Light of Christ, Deerfield/Blissfield: Fr. Jeff and team hosted their first wave of leadership gatherings this week, and are in the planning stages for next week's senior lunches. There is a lot of excitement and great enthusiasm for the Campaign at the parish.

Church of the Holy Family, Grand Blanc: In **Msgr. Jerry's** homily on Announcement Weekend, he shared his personal pledge and also **Fr. Gary's** campaign pledge, which continues to inspire parishioners. The conceptual drawings of the parish projects have also added to the enthusiasm for the campaign and there is tangible evidence that anyone who might have been skeptical has "turned the corner". **Msgr. Vincke** and **Fr. Gary** are having one-on-one meetings with Holy Family's 60 major donor prospects and have been doing a superb job leading this effort. Leadership pledges are also coming in from the 3 home receptions that were held in September. The parish is hosting gatherings after all Masses on October 8 and 9 where **Msgr. Vincke** and **Fr. Gary** together with campaign volunteers will be available to answer questions about the campaign and families will receive their campaign packets.

At **Holy Rosary, Flint, Fr. Roy Horning** addressed a hosted reception of the choir on Friday evening, and on Monday evening held a parish reception for all those interested. He stressed the importance of the total work to be accomplished and asked people to actively pray and determine their most appropriate gift in the next week.

Fr. Louis Ekka at **Saint Mary Queen of Angels, Swartz Creek** began receiving gifts this week. One parishioner was so committed to the effort they opted not to wait for a reception, but moved forward with an online gift. This weekend, the parish will host after Mass receptions.

This week **Fr. Michael Kuchar** at **Saint Mark the Evangelist, Goodrich** continued to encourage attendance at neighborhood receptions. He has asked those who have already attended a reception to please return their pledge card by Mass this Sunday.

St. Anthony of Padua, Hillsdale will hold its first parish gathering this week and **Fr. David** has begun meeting with parishioners for their leadership gift support. The parish has a strong case for support to expand their parish outreach center and to provide greater support to youth ministry.