

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR

THE CHURCH ALIVE!

FOR ONE CHURCH *Alive* IN SIX COUNTIES

GOOD WORKS

An Impact Report to Donors – Spring 2018

CAMPAIGN HELPING US JOURNEY ON MISSION

After three years of prayer, study and consultation, **Bishop David Zubik** announced key changes April 28-29 designed to promote **vibrant faith** and **healthy growth** in every parish of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Bishop Zubik placed the **188 parishes** in the diocese into **57 groupings** that eventually will become new, multi-site parishes. He also announced timeline categories and the maximum number of weekend Masses per grouping, as well as clergy assignments.

Campaign donations continue to have a positive impact on the success of *On Mission for The Church Alive!*, supporting extraordinary needs in our parishes, schools and communities.

Charitable grants supporting Catholic education, faith formation, priestly vocations, social services and many other causes are at work across the diocese. **Parishes have received funding** to meet important needs including evangelization and long-deferred repair and maintenance of facilities.

Any unused campaign funds of closed or merged parishes will be redirected to the successor parish for its future approved use. The diocese **will not use** any campaign donations given for parish use.

A new way to build church

A second round of **formation and training** is being held this summer for lay leaders in parishes, supported by sacrificial gifts to the campaign.

The **Lay Ecclesial Minister Leadership & Evangelization Collaborative** is a state-of-the-art effort designed to change how church leaders approach ministry. Leaders focus on drawing people deeper into the faith, serving practicing and inactive Catholics, and people who have never been baptized.

Topics include strength-based leadership, building bridges, leading in transition, making disciples, raising up new leaders, and the universal call to holiness.



Audrey Craig

Ready for the world

Audrey Craig was two years old when she was enrolled in **DePaul School for Hearing and Speech** in Pittsburgh. Like 70 percent of the students, Audrey has a cochlear implant—a small electronic device that replaces the function of the damaged inner ear to provide sound signals to her brain.

Three years later, Audrey is ready to follow her sister **Kelly, 9**, from DePaul into the Mohawk Area School District in Lawrence County.

“At first we were nervous, with the girls going to school at such a young age, but we’re very pleased,” said mother **Tracy Craig**. “We know they will be able to do whatever they want in life, and we’re excited for this next step for Audrey.”

Thanks to a campaign grant, DePaul School is now able to help children even younger than Audrey through an **early intervention program**, working with them as soon as they are diagnosed with hearing loss. “We began the Baby and Parent group to get parents connected, and to know they’re not alone,” said **Ruth Auld**, executive director of DePaul School.

Founded in 1908 by the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, DePaul is the only listening and spoken language school in the tri-state region for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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ON MISSION FOR
**THE
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FORMING DISCIPLES FOR JESUS

The diocese recently made another major announcement as part of *On Mission for The Church Alive!*, launching an innovative new effort to make disciples for Jesus and help revitalize our parishes.

The **School of Missionary Discipleship** is an intensive process of formation, consultation and training offered through the diocesan Department for Evangelization and Missionary Outreach, involving **three phases**:

- **Ignite!** lights the fire of renewal in parishes, sparked by spiritual awakening experiences like ChristLife or Alpha. Members are invited to help meet parish needs such as hospitality and outreach.
- **On Fire!** is an in-depth spiritual formation program to help Catholics discern their personal gifts and mission as a disciple of Christ.
- **Equip!** is a training program for specific volunteer leadership roles in parishes, including catechesis, evangelization, hospitality, pastoral care and social outreach, to support clergy and lay ecclesial ministers.

Modeled on **Jesus' example of formation and evangelization** as shown to us in the Gospels, this approach includes **four steps** in the life of a disciple: 1) the awakening of spiritual hunger, 2) the call to follow Jesus, 3) the disciple's growth in the context of friendship with Jesus, and 4) discerning one's gifts and being prepared to support evangelization and missionary outreach within a parish.

For more information, visit www.diopitt.org/smd

Help and hope for young people

Thanks to an innovative **street ministry**, more teens are experiencing the saving love of Jesus, and one has taken a leap of faith.

John, age 14, from the Garfield section of Pittsburgh, was confirmed and welcomed into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, brought to the faith by **Dirty Vagabond Ministries**.

Sacrificial gifts to the Campaign helped provide start-up grants for the ministry, which embraces Pope Francis' preference for "a church that is dirty because it's been on the streets." The "vagabond" reference is rooted in Jesus' command for his disciples to go out by twos to meet and minister to those in need.

The ministry also is growing at **St. Juan Diego Parish** in Sharpsburg, where two dozen young people attend weekly outreach nights and bible studies. Eight teens will be going on a mission trip to New Mexico to serve poor people living on a reservation.



John, with missionaries Milan Chaump (left) and Christopher Kerfoot (right) at St. Maria Goretti Parish, Immaculate Conception church.



Father Timothy Whalen leads prayers at Blessed Trinity School in Glenshaw.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO A CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Thanks to sacrificial gifts to *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*, more than \$11 million has been infused into the **Bishop's Education Fund**, increasing this permanent endowment by 60 percent.

The support is enabling hundreds of additional students in need of financial assistance to benefit from a Catholic education.

Catholic schools provide spiritual formation that encourages virtue. Academic excellence leads to success in higher education. Gospel values promote respect, compassion and service.

Learn more about how the Church teaches the faith. Listen to **Catholic Education Plus**, which airs every other Sunday at 6:30 a.m. on KDKA-AM.

Podcasts are available at:
<https://kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus>

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