

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR

# THE CHURCH ALIVE!

FOR ONE CHURCH *Alive* IN SIX COUNTIES

## GOOD WORKS

An Impact Report to Donors – Spring 2014

### PROGRESS IN THE PARISHES



New, energy-efficient lighting has been installed in Our Lady of Grace church in Scott Township.

Even as sacrificial gifts continue to be presented to *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*, projects are underway to make capital and program improvements in our parishes across the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

At **Saint John Fisher Parish** in Churchill, two new murals have been installed in the church, the interior was painted, additional lighting installed, a concrete walkway was repaired, steps replaced and railings added. The final project will be refurbishing the pews this fall.

The Pastoral Center at **Saint Stephen Parish** in Hazelwood is now handicap-accessible. **Father Vincent Stegman, C.S. Sp.** reports that a ramp was installed, doorways widened and a restroom was renovated.

**Father David Taylor**, pastor of **Saint Charles Lwanga Parish** in Pittsburgh's East End said a boiler was replaced in Corpus Christi church and roofs repaired on both worship sites, partially with funds from the Campaign. A new restroom will be built in Mother of Good Counsel church and new sound systems installed in both churches.

The first payment was made toward eliminating the debt at **Church of the Resurrection Parish** in Brookline, according to **Father Frank Mitolo**. The next project using campaign funds will be to repair the lower parking lot in the parish courtyard.

Improvement plans are taking shape at two of **Father Frank Almade's** parishes in New Castle. Bids are going out for new pews and carpeting at **Saint Vincent de Paul Parish**, and the search is underway for a consultant who will help install new lighting at **Saint Vitus Parish**.

**Father Ken Sparks**, the new pastor at **Saint Januarius Parish** in Plum, is obtaining cost estimates to replace the sound system in the church, along with making interior renovations in the coming months.

### Modern Methods, Timeless Teachings

#### *Live-Streaming the Daily Mass*

We proclaim the Gospel and the teachings of the Church through all available communication channels, including the modern media.

Thanks to sacrificial gifts from the late **Rita M. McGinley** and **Ann & Frank V. Cahouet Foundation**, daily Masses from Saint Paul Cathedral and Saint Mary of Mercy are now live-streamed on [www.ChristianAssociatesTV.org](http://www.ChristianAssociatesTV.org). Previously, the faithful could view these Masses only on Christian Associates Channel (Comcast Channel 95) which is limited to the City of Pittsburgh.

The Campaign's Case for Support calls for expanding our use of every form of media to minister to the elderly, shut-in, or otherwise disabled, as well as other Catholics.

#### *Mobile App Promotes Pastoral Letter*

Our Diocese's first-ever **mobile app** has been developed with the support of campaign funds to help promote Bishop Zubik's fourth pastoral letter, "The Church Evangelizing!"

The app features an e-reader of the pastoral letter with hyperlinks to evangelization resources, and can be downloaded from the App Store.

A website has been developed, [www.ChurchEvangelizing.com](http://www.ChurchEvangelizing.com), which includes interactive multimedia material such as a video and an audio file of the bishop reading the pastoral letter.

In it, Bishop Zubik describes the eight building blocks of Evangelization:

- Practice hospitality
- Know the faith
- Speak up
- Give correction
- Be loyal
- Stay in touch
- Remember the poor
- Be encouraging

The pastoral letter also will be promoted via social media advertising across our Diocese.



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## Fruits of Christian Stewardship

Far more than a fund-raising initiative, *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* is an opportunity for Catholics across our Diocese to enjoy the fruits of Christian Stewardship.

"Many people are following their faith," said **Father John Sweeney**, pastor of **Saint Bonaventure Parish** in Glenshaw. "But in understanding discipleship and stewardship, how do we reach those Catholics who don't regularly attend Mass?"

The U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship describes the challenges.

"We are obliged to be stewards of the church—collaborators and cooperators in continuing the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. The church's essential mission—proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying—is our task.

"Each one of us—clergy, religious, layperson; married, single; adult, child—has a personal vocation," the bishops wrote. "The challenge is to understand our role and respond generously to this call from God."

## Shepherding Their Flock



Parishioners look to their priests and deacons for guidance, leadership and support, and our clergy have responded with great generosity in the Campaign, with more than **70 percent** pledging a gift to help meet the extraordinary needs across our Diocese, well above the usual level of support.

Instead of the common practice of inviting pastors, parochial vicars and deacons to make a gift when their parish took part in the Campaign, the decision was made at the outset of the drive to conduct a separate and distinct **Clergy Phase** beginning in December 2012.

Chaired by **Most Rev. William J. Winter, S.T.D.**, retired auxiliary bishop, the Clergy Phase has raised more than **\$3.5 million**, seven times the target of \$500,000. A committed Clergy Phase Task Force comprised of priests and deacons reached out to their brothers, inviting them to participate in the historic initiative.

This sacrificial response from active and retired clergy helped to jump-start the Campaign and build crucial early momentum, inspiring parishioners to follow their spiritual leaders.

## Investing in Catholic Education



**Rebekah Grinnen** teaches in a public school district but is grateful for the opportunity to send her four children to **Holy Redeemer Catholic School** in Ellwood City, thanks to support from the Bishop's Education Fund and other assistance.

"Not only are my children receiving a quality education, but the opportunity for them to openly give praise to God is precious," Mrs. Grinnen said. "As a public school teacher, I come into contact with hundreds of students on a daily basis. I can easily spot those who have attended Catholic school. Their morality and presence truly stand out from all of the rest."

*Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* will allocate \$12 million to increase the Fund's permanent endowment by 60 percent, enabling thousands more students to benefit from a Catholic education, in addition to the more than 42,000 young people who are taught the faith in parish religious education programs.

Not all families with proven need will receive grants because there is not enough funding to help everyone. In 2011-2012, through the Fund and other assistance, the diocese was able to provide only about 26 percent of the demonstrated financial need to help families enroll in Catholic schools.

"Thank you for all that you do for not only my family, but for all of those who are blessed with the support from the Diocese of Pittsburgh," Mrs. Grinnen said.

**Diana Guarinoni**, whose children attend **Madonna Catholic Regional School** in Monongahela, echoes those words of gratitude.

"The Bishop's Education Fund eased the anxiety I experienced related to affording the quality education available for my children at Madonna Catholic," she said. "Thank you!"