

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR

THE CHURCH ALIVE!

FOR ONE CHURCH *Alive* IN SIX COUNTIES

GOOD WORKS

An Impact Report to Donors – Winter 2014

GREETINGS!

Welcome to the first edition of the **Good Works** Donor Newsletter. Thank you for your gift to *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* and willingness to share that which comes from the Giver of all Good Gifts.



The purpose of this communication, as faithful stewards of God's abundance, is to regularly report on the positive impact of your financial commitment as the "intangibles" are funded and extraordinary needs met.

We invite your comments and questions about how gifts are being applied, in parishes and across our Diocese. Visit www.ChurchAlivePgh.org and click on the Contact tab at the top.

I offer my sincere thanks for your support of this historic initiative, and please know that you remain in my prayers.

Grateful for our belief that *"Nothing is Impossible with God,"* I am

Your brother in Christ,

+ *David A. Zubik*

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

An Opportunity to Strengthen Faith

Our Campaign for The Church Alive! has brought priests closer to their people, providing an opportunity to "make you a better pastor," according to one such shepherd.

Father James Murphy, pastor of **Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen Parish** in Butler County discovered that the Campaign gave him a chance to strengthen his relationships with his people.

"I've seen that our parishioners have a deep faith and trust in the Church that she will guide them," Fr. Murphy said. "It's helping to keep Jesus alive in their lives. Their giving is an expression of their faith."

"The Campaign provides a great opportunity to get together one-on-one with parishioners, really get to know them on a personal basis, and on a deeper level to see their struggles."

Progress in the Parishes

Thanks to the generosity of the faithful, work has begun to strengthen parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, as *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* continues to gain momentum.

Projects are underway in about a dozen parishes that took part in the first two campaign tracks. Stained-glass windows and church organs have been repaired, roofs replaced and other infrastructure improvements completed.



At **Saint Peter Parish** on Pittsburgh's North Side, **Father Vincent Zidek** is having the stained-glass windows restored in the 125-year old church. The next job involves repairing mortar joints and cleaning, caulking and sealing the stone and brick at Saint Peter and Our Lady Queen of Peace churches. Similar stained-glass repairs are underway at **Saint Athanasius Parish** in West View under the direction of **Father Robert Norton**.

At **Our Lady of Grace Parish** in Scott Township, **Father Richard Infante** reports that roofs have been replaced on two of six parish buildings. Because the parish raised 153 percent of their campaign target, the parish also will be able to install a new fire alarm system in the school, energy-efficient lighting and air conditioning in the church, and eventually new school windows.

Father Daniel Straughn, pastor of **Saint Mark Parish** in Liberty and Port Vue, said the concrete outside the buildings was replaced and other infrastructure improvements were made, along with repairs to the church organs. A priority in the near future is a scholarship fund for Mon Yough Catholic School and parish religious education.

Our Lady of Joy Parish in Holiday Park repaired a large picture window behind the altar and replaced five sections of the roof. Next up are fixing ceilings damaged by water, plastering the kitchen, installing a new boiler and repaving the parking lot.

"It makes me feel good that we really accomplished something in the campaign," **Father Al Zapf**, pastor of Our Lady of Joy, said. "Our parishioners came through."

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You save postage and paper checks while lowering campaign expenses. Electronic payments are easy to set up. Enroll today at <http://churchalivepgh.org/payments/> or scan:



Hearing the Cry of the Poor

Even as **Pope Francis** delivers his message about serving the poor, the people of three Butler County parishes are working to expand outreach efforts in their community and beyond.

Through the Campaign, **Saint Peter, Saint Paul and Saint Michael the Archangel** parishes will help serve the poor and strengthen Catholic education and evangelization.

“We have a chance to give back to ourselves and our community, as well as to our Diocese,” **Father Harry Bielewicz**, pastor of the three parishes, said. “Our parishioners are very generous. Working together we can do great things.”



Reaching out to the poor is a frequent call from our new pope.

“In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons,” Pope Francis said.

“When we are generous in welcoming people and sharing something with them—some food, a place in our homes, our time—not only do we no longer remain poor, we are enriched.”

Fulfilling the New Evangelization

We’re hearing a lot these days about the New Evangelization, but the idea has been around for centuries. The New Evangelization means being a friend, and the Campaign is helping to answer that call.

“*Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* invites everyone to pray and become engaged in the mission of the Church, inspiring others to give,” **Helene Paharik**, associate general secretary for the diocese, said. “That’s evangelization.”

The Campaign represents and supports the New Evangelization in two important ways. First, diocesan and parish evangelization efforts will be revitalized through funding to help all Catholics to know and live the faith in order to reach out to those who have left the Church and others who have not yet encountered Jesus.

Secondly, there’s a significant opportunity to directly evangelize through the Campaign as priests and parishioners invite others to join them in strengthening their faith community.

“We want our parishes to be welcoming, loving communities that invite people into a deeper relationship with Christ and help heal broken relationships,” Paharik added.

Campaign Accountability

As responsible stewards of the gifts placed in our trust during this historic initiative, we are called to share those blessings wisely and honestly. The following are some of the top questions donors have asked about how funds are handled through *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*



1. What is the purpose of the organization overseeing the donations?

All campaign gifts are received and managed by a separate non-profit corporation, entitled *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!, Inc.*, to ensure that campaign funds will be used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Case for Support. None of the money raised in the Campaign may be used for reasons unrelated to the case statements of our Diocese or parishes.

2. What are the chief duties of the Board of Directors?

The Board’s duties are two-fold: to oversee the policies, procedures and practices of managing the funds raised in the Campaign, and to ensure that all donor gifts are applied only for the purposes intended and outlined in the diocesan and parish Cases for Support.

3. How have the 200 parishes of our Diocese developed their own Cases for Support?

Your pastor, finance council and pastoral council identified your parish’s priority needs and dreams. This was done in consultation with the regional vicar and the campaign Pastors’ Advisory Committee. These priorities became your parish’s Case for Support, which may include capital and/or programmatic needs to strengthen your parish.

4. How will the funds be collected and distributed?

A five-year pledge redemption process is being managed by our Diocese. Reminder statements are mailed to donors either monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. As funds are received, they are deposited into the non-profit corporation. Parishes begin to receive monies six months after the conclusion of their campaigns and then quarterly thereafter. Pastors will be kept informed of cash flow and pledge payments during the redemption process, and donors will receive regular updates such as this on the impact of their gifts.