

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR

THE CHURCH ALIVE!

FOR ONE CHURCH *Alive* IN SIX COUNTIES

GOOD WORKS

Donor Newsletter - Fall 2018

FORMING YOUNG DISCIPLES FOR JESUS

The top concern of Catholics in southwestern Pennsylvania is **helping young people come alive in their faith**, according to surveys done by the Diocese of Pittsburgh. To help address that need, a young adult ministry training program is being launched with support from *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*

The collaborative learning experience called *Cultivate* will provide leaders with basic theology and skills to implement young adult ministry in their parishes or region.

Of the more than 530,000 young adults who live in the diocese's six counties, about 125,000 are Catholic, according to **Jacob Williamson**, diocesan director for young adult outreach. Approximately 40,000 regularly attend Mass.

"We want to raise up leaders who will help make disciples," Williamson said. "Those in their 20s and 30s are looking for something deeper, a life full of meaning—a life with Christ."

Cultivate will be begin with a weekend retreat on January 4-6, 2019, followed by six monthly sessions that will cover topics such as strategies for ministering to young adults, developmental growth of a disciple and social media outreach. Learn more at <https://diopitt.org/cultivate>

Campaign, parish funds won't be used for compensation program

Bishop David Zubik has announced the establishment of an independently administered **Survivors' Compensation Program** to aid those who suffered abuse at the hands of Catholic clergy.

The fund "will be designed to create the best opportunity for recovery and healing to survivors," Bishop Zubik said.

No money used for this fund will come from *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*, parishes, schools, Catholic Charities, or any other funds designated for specific use by donors. Other sources of funding will be announced.

A **comprehensive review** is also underway to study all diocesan practices related to the protection of children and young people that have been instituted and improved upon over the past 30 years.

Complete information may be found at <https://diopitt.org/clergy-abuse-response>



Father Adam Verona (in white) and Rebecca Feldcamp (center with glasses) with Slippy Rock students.

College missionaries feed spiritual hunger

Young disciple-makers are continuing to build friendships and lead **Slippy Rock University** students to Jesus, thanks to sacrificial gifts from donors to the Campaign.

Four missionaries from **FOCUS**, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, are now in their second year of outreach on campus, running Bible study groups and mentoring student leaders.

FOCUS team director **Rebecca Feldcamp** said in a recent interview on the diocesan radio program **Catholic Education Plus** that they take a personal interest in students and encourage them to make time for important conversations about truth and meaning in their lives.

A study from the Pew Research Center found that nearly 80 percent of Catholics who leave the faith, do so by age 23, demonstrating the need for strong college campus ministry.

"There definitely is a crisis and really what that comes down to is a lack of authentic friendship among students," Feldcamp said. "Everyone is really hungry to be deeply known and deeply loved. But we have grown up in a world that doesn't necessarily teach us how to do that."

The entire interview can be heard at <https://kdkaradio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus>

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High school technology up to speed



Serra Catholic freshmen learn how to use Google Drive to create, edit and access files.

Students at all 12 Catholic high schools in the diocese are safely speeding along the digital superhighway, thanks to **technology grants** provided by *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* and other sources.

The funding helped to upgrade fiber optic networks and technology infrastructure as well as cyber security and tech-based physical plant security, enhancing educational programs and improving student safety.

Serra Catholic High School in McKeesport now has a wireless network that is several times faster and more reliable than its previous system, a technology center with a 3D printer and audio-video recording studio, and an HD security camera system, according to principal **Tim Chirdon**.

Nazareth Prep in Emsworth used funds in part to build a fabrication laboratory or “FabLab,” a digital workshop equipped with high-tech tools to support learning and innovation.

“A heartfelt thanks to every donor who helped make this improvement a reality,” Chirdon said. “We will use this technology for many, many years to come.”

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS RECEIVING TECHNOLOGY GRANTS

DIOCESAN

- Bishop Canevin
- Oakland Catholic
- Seton-LaSalle
- Central Catholic
- St. Joseph
- Quigley Catholic
- North Catholic
- Serra Catholic

PRIVATE

- Aquinas
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
- Vincentian
- Nazareth Prep

ON MISSION UNDERWAY

The implementation phase of *On Mission for The Church Alive!* started Oct. 15 as new clergy teams began their assignments and interim Mass and confession schedules took effect.

ON MISSION FOR
THE CHURCH ALIVE!

Launched in April 2015, the revitalization initiative seeks to offer both practicing and inactive Catholics a deeper relationship with Jesus and the Church, as well as those who have never been baptized.

Bishop Zubik placed the diocese’s 188 parishes and 225 churches into 57 groupings that will become new, multi-site parishes over the next two to five years.

Complete lists of parish groupings, clergy assignments and Mass times can be found at onmissionchurchalive.org.

ADVENT AND CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Advent reminds us that **Jesus is coming**, and we need to prepare for His arrival.

It is a season to set aside some of the hustle and bustle of the holidays and reflect on the promise of the Christ child born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

It’s also a good time to consider our responsibilities in a world God has entrusted to us.

As **Christian stewards**, we receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

We recognize that **everything belongs to God**. All resources must be used for His glory and the common good.

We work in concrete ways to make our parishes **true communities of faith** and vibrant sources of service to the larger community. And we give generously of our time, money, prayers and personal service to parish and diocesan programs to the universal Church.



May God continue to abundantly bless your loved ones this Advent season.