

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR

THE CHURCH ALIVE!

FOR ONE CHURCH *Alive* IN SIX COUNTIES

GOOD WORKS

Annual Report to Donors – Spring 2016



Every Gift Matters

I am always amazed but never surprised by the generosity of our clergy and the people of the Church of Pittsburgh. In a little more than a year since the solicitation period concluded for *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*, we have been witnessing the extraordinary impact of 130,000 individuals and families joining hands in sacrificial giving for their parishes and the wider Church.

Working together, we are strengthening parishes and programs across our diocese, offering a powerful witness that we are indeed excited about our faith. Still, we have much work to do as we invest in the future of our Catholic family and ensure that our Church is Alive in faith.

Christian Stewardship teaches us that we are to receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. The genuine success of this campaign is that each of us was invited to sacrifice according to our means. Whether it is \$100 or \$100,000, each sacrifice is equally pleasing in God's eyes.

In this Annual Report you will read about the first fruits of the sacrificial gifts of donors like you who love the Lord and want to leave a legacy for future generations.

Thank you for your trust and for your continuing support.

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

Alive in Faith



Our *Campaign for The Church Alive!* is not simply a fundraising effort, but a historic initiative to grow the Church of Pittsburgh. Signs of progress are everywhere.

Work is underway to support your parish's immediate priorities and to launch new programs across the six counties of our diocese.

To date, more than **\$105 million** has been received through nearly 400,000 transactions from donors. The largest share of the **parish portion** of the funding (42%) has been spent on long-deferred **parish infrastructure projects**, renovations and maintenance. About 29 percent has gone toward reducing **parish debts**, and 25 percent is being invested in **new construction**.

New grants have been approved to support diocesan-wide programs and ministries:

- The **Bishop's Education Fund** received a vital infusion of cash to provide need-based tuition assistance to help Catholic families afford to keep their children in Catholic schools.
- Our **Vocations office** has received extra funding so that vocations to the priesthood are being promoted in new, exciting and effective ways.
- **Urban missionaries** are evangelizing at-risk youth in Pittsburgh's city center.
- The **Catholic Men's Fellowship** is expanding the number of men's groups in parishes, with a goal to grow the attendance at the Annual Gathering of Catholic Men by at least one-thousand.
- To remove a major financial obstacle and to welcome more Catholics into full communion in the church, fees for the **marriage annulment process** are being supported by an evangelization grant. Inquiries are up significantly.

The Board of Directors for *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*, Inc. is carefully overseeing grant applications, funding efforts that demonstrate need, collaboration, sustainability and potential impact.

All funds are used only for the purposes described in the diocesan and parish case statements, and **campaign expenses remain low**, at about seven percent.

In keeping with a promise of accountability and transparency, **campaign impact stories** are being shared with donors in the Pittsburgh Catholic newspaper, quarterly newsletters, and in parish bulletins.

The Little School that Could

Enrollment has nearly doubled in four years at **St. Wendelin Parish School** in Carbon Center, Butler County. Need-based tuition assistance from the Bishop's Education Fund (BEF) is helping.

Like other Catholic schools, Saint Wendelin's enrollment had been shrinking, falling to just 58 students in 2011. When the pastor, **Father Matt McClain**, and other parish leaders asked **Jo Lynn Clouse** to become the new principal, a team pulled together to help promote the school. Today, the student population continues to climb and a number of families are receiving financial assistance.

The BEF has received \$4 million to date from *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* to help families and students. The goal is to increase the BEF's endowment by at least 60 percent to enable thousands of children across our diocese to benefit from a Catholic education.

Catholic schools have been integral to the growth of the Church and to the accomplishments of our region, and the campaign is helping provide more opportunities in the future.



*St. Wendelin Parish School
Carbon Center
Butler County*

Every Sacrifice Counts

Dawn and Patrick Miller are retirees on a fixed income, so when **Father Paul Grunebach**, their pastor at **St. Oliver Plunkett Parish** in Marianna asked them to give to the campaign, naturally they had questions.

Three years later, Patrick is happy they made the sacrifice.

“Father Paul described what the campaign was all about, and that he was giving to it,” Patrick recalled. “Well, I thought if he can make his pledge, I can make mine.”

The word “sacrifice,” as Bishop Zubik explained, comes from the Latin words *sacrum facere*, “to make holy.”

“What we’re talking about is not so much denying something for myself, but really taking a look at what it means to give what I might use for myself...for the benefit of the work of the Church,” Bishop Zubik said.

“We’re thankful for all our blessings,” Patrick said. “Our parish went over its target, and it’s good to see the positive impact of the campaign.”

As Father Paul counseled his people, “**every gift matters!**”



GIFTS TO DATE

As of February 11, 2016, of the **\$233.3 million** pledged to *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*, Inc., **\$105.3 million (45%)** in payments have been received. Grants totaling more than **\$10 million** were awarded in 2015 by the non-profit Campaign board (see pages 4-5).

Funds will continue to be returned to parishes across our Diocese as gifts are received and accounts reconciled.

Summary of results – as of February 11, 2016 – \$ in millions

	Pledged	Received	%
Parish phase	\$ 192.9	\$ 90.7	47%
Bishop phase	40.4	14.6	36%
Total	233.3	105.3	45%

Small Parishes, Big Successes

Members of **St. Hilary Parish** in Washington, PA, are getting ready to celebrate a century of faith. Established in 1919, the parish is led by longtime pastor Father Thomas O’Neil. Donors to the campaign far exceeded their target, allowing for a complete refurbishment of the church bell tower and bells. The church interior also has been repainted, and fabric panels replaced and hand painted.

Parishioners of **Holy Family Parish** in New Brighton stepped forward during the campaign. The church hall has been renovated, the restroom is now handicap-accessible, and windows were replaced.

In Ambridge, **Good Samaritan Parish** has benefited from the campaign. The brick walls on most of the parish center has been repaired and repointed, and repairs are being made to the slate roof. Donors helped Good Samaritan reach 178 percent of their campaign target.

Thanks to your sacrificial support, the following Diocesan Grants were awarded in the past year:

Organization/Need	Program	\$ Funded
St. Anthony Schools Program	North Hills Expansion/Scholarships for new students	155,000
Seminarian Formation	Days of Recollection, Epiphany Academy	37,500
Campus Ministry	Slippery Rock University FOCUS team	180,000
Youth Street Ministry	Dirty Vagabond Ministries – Pittsburgh/Garfield	75,000
DePaul School for Hearing & Speech	Financial aid for needy families/Planned giving	200,000
Secretary for Leadership Development	Good Leaders, Good Shepherds Training (Priests)/Tending the Talents (Lay Leaders)	328,695
Catholic Charities	Mother Teresa Endowment Fund – Emergency assistance for basic needs	2,000,000
Catholic Charities	New Roselia Program Fund – Support for homeless, pregnant women	1,532,987
Need-Based Tuition Grants	Bishop's Education Fund	2,000,000
Catholic Charities	Free Health Care Center – Dental Services	32,987
Education	Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic H.S. debt service	2,000,000
Office for Vocations/Seminary	Priestly Vocations Discernment Programs	106,750
Catholic Community of South Pittsburgh	Pastoral Associate – four-parish collaboration	66,000
Diocesan Tribunal	Remove annulment fees to help bring Catholics back to the Church	200,000
Mission Office	Create Mission Endowment	1,000,000
Christian Associates	Preserve the Pittsburgh Crèche display	50,000
Catholic Men's Fellowship	Increase attendance, Annual Gathering of Catholic Men	32,000
Education	Evangelization Programs for Youth/Young Adults	100,000
Total Diocesan Grants – 2015		10,096,919

Total Diocesan Grants: 2014-2015 – \$20,880,051



“The genuine success of this campaign is that each of us was invited to sacrifice according to our means.”

– Bishop David A. Zubik

EXAMPLES OF IMPACT TO DATE



- More **dental patients** are being treated at **Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center**, thanks in part to a campaign grant to help underwrite the cost for a full-time dentist. Care is provided to individuals who do not have employer-sponsored health insurance, cannot afford private insurance, or who do not qualify for Medicaid or other types of assistance.
- Described as an awakening encounter and conversion experience, the **Annual Gathering of Catholic Men** nourishes the faith of practicing and inactive Catholic men and sends them back to help renew their parishes. A grant to the **Catholic Men's Fellowship of Pittsburgh** will help promote the Gathering and continue to grow the number of parish-based men's groups.
- The Campaign is helping to increase the permanent endowment of the **Bishop's Education Fund** by at least 60 percent for needs-tested **tuition assistance grants**, enabling thousands more students to afford and benefit from a Catholic school education.
- The **Pittsburgh Crèche** received an evangelization grant toward the annual cost to assemble, display, disassemble, maintain and store the 30-ton structure, the world's only authorized identical replica of the Nativity Crèche that Pope John Paul II commissioned for the Vatican. Preserving the true meaning of Christmas, the Pittsburgh Crèche stands as a reminder of God's great love for all His creation.

Grant Making Process

The Grant Review Committee and the volunteer board of directors of *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* carefully consider and evaluate applications for funding with the diocesan case statement, helping ensure accountability and transparency, and earning the trust of donors.

The board's duties are two-fold: to oversee the policies, procedures and practices of managing the funds received through the campaign, and to confirm that all donor gifts are applied only for the purposes intended in the diocesan and parish case statements.

Some of the region's finest experts in finance, accounting, law and the Church are serving Bishop Zubik on the board, and represent donors who support the Campaign. The board is chaired by **J. Christopher Donahue**, president and CEO of Federated Investors, Inc.

To learn more about the grant making process, visit ChurchAlivePgh.org/grants.php

*Accountability &
Transparency*

SUPPORTING PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

Interest in vocations to the priesthood is up in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, as more men are taking time to discern God's call in their lives. **Father Joe Freedy**, diocesan vocations director, says attendance at the Quo Vadis Days Retreats led by the seminarians and the Christmas discernment retreats has doubled in recent years.

Sacrificial gifts to *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* are helping to expand recruitment efforts. The most visible signs are "discernment stations" in parishes featuring banners that pose the question, "Is God Calling You?"

The campaign grant also is supporting enhancements to the vocations web site, PghPriest.com, which features short, engaging videos. Other promotions include targeted online advertising and printed materials that the Vocations Office could not afford without *Church Alive!* funding.

"God has a perfect plan for each of us," Father Freedy said, "and to the extent that we follow this plan we become conduits of God's love around us."



Street Ministry that Connects

Jesus calls us to love one another, and that's exactly what missionaries **Emily Bonessi** and **Christopher Kerfoot** are doing in Pittsburgh's Garfield neighborhood.

They serve young people through **Dirty Vagabond Ministries**, an urban youth ministry that embraces Pope Francis's preference for "a Church that is dirty because it's been on the streets." Missionaries are considered to be "vagabonds" who work with kids who are poor and in need of hope.

Bonessi and Kerfoot hand out free hot dogs and literally walk around, talking to kids at bus stops, in neighborhood playgrounds and parks. They also tutor at local high schools.

Teens hang out at the Underground, a new youth center at St. Maria Goretti Parish in Garfield/Bloomfield/Friendship. The program, which also includes community activities, tutoring and scripture study, received a start-up grant from the Campaign.

"We have high hopes for these kids," Kerfoot said. "We hope they have higher dreams, and experience Christ. Life may seem boring for a lot of kids. They don't know about the adventure that is the Christian life."



Forming Disciples in Lawrence County

Parishioners at **St. James the Apostle** in Pulaski, Lawrence County want to reach out to their neighbors and share the good news, but they knew they needed a better relationship with Jesus.

They read *Forming Intentional Disciples* by Sherry Weddell and Pope Francis's *The Joy of the Gospel*, identified their personal gifts, and trained facilitators to start up small groups with the help of parishioner **Roxanne Romeo**.

Even though St. James the Apostle is a smaller parish with 325 families, some parishioners didn't know each other. They are growing closer with 50 adults participating in the small groups, including parents with young children. Participants pray, share and study, taking time to discuss how they felt Jesus at work in their lives.

Coordinator **Jean Pascale** says the program is supported by parish **Church Alive!** funds. "It's all about being supportive of one another and growing in relationship with Jesus," Jean says.



CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Our Campaign for The Church Alive! is helping members of three Catholic parishes in Butler look beyond their parish walls and into the faces of those in need.

Parishioners at **St. Peter, St. Paul** and **St. Michael the Archangel** parishes have provided campaign grants to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Butler, Meals on Wheels, Connecting2Tomorrow, Inc., Butler County Emergency Relief Initiative, Community Health Clinic of Butler County, for Catholic education, and the Chimbote Mission.

"Every day we see a reminder of who our neighbors are," said **Father Harry Bielewicz**, pastor. "The Lord said, 'how are you feeding the people around you?' The campaign allows us to do a little more, to realize that we can help others."

"We are doing God's work, helping the less fortunate and really living our faith," said parishioner **Fred Vero**. "These funds help make people's lives a little bit better."

ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE!

In April 2015, Bishop Zubik announced the launch of **On Mission for The Church Alive!**, a consultative strategic planning process that invites participation from clergy, religious, lay leaders and all the faithful. Its purpose is to promote vibrant and sustainable parishes and schools that support the mission of Jesus Christ and His Church.

Our parishes are changing rapidly. Mass attendance and participation in the sacraments are down significantly. In less than five years we will have more parishes than priests.

On Mission for the Church Alive! is an effort to re-envision parish life, taking into account the challenges and opportunities we face.

Building on the work of the Campaign, **On Mission** is first and foremost about **growing the Church** by bringing people to Jesus and deepening our relationship with Him.

On Mission is designed to help our parishes and schools, our campus ministry programs and every faith community in our diocese to have the ministerial and financial resources necessary to ensure vibrant communities of worship and service.

Study and consultation will begin this fall in every parish in our diocese. Please take the time to engage in the process. **To learn more, visit OnMissionChurchAlive.org**

ON MISSION FOR
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CHURCH
ALIVE!



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