

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR

# THE CHURCH ALIVE!

FOR ONE CHURCH *Alive* IN SIX COUNTIES

## GOOD WORKS

An Impact Report to Donors – Fall 2014

### CAMPAIGN FUNDS ALREADY AT WORK



*Last year, counseling time for Roselia Pregnancy and Parenting Support jumped 35 percent, with nearly one-thousand people receiving services.*

As sacrificial gifts continue to be received, the non-profit volunteer board of *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*, Inc. continues to **put funds to work** across the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

More than **41,000** gifts to the Campaign have been recorded to date.

In addition to more than **\$9.3 million distributed directly to parishes** for their Campaign priorities, the following grants have been awarded by the Board:

- **\$2 million** added to the **Bishop's Education Fund** to help more needy families keep their children enrolled in Catholic schools
- **\$1 million** to Catholic Charities' new **Roselia Program** to endow an expansion of support services for homeless pregnant women and new mothers, including transitional housing in downtown Pittsburgh
- **\$1 million** to endow a full-time dentist for Catholic Charities' Free Health Care Center, and **\$150,000** to assist in the expansion from four dental suites to six
- **\$50,000** for print and electronic media to encourage vocations to the priesthood
- **\$50,000** for endowing a fund to support the missions

### New Chapter for Campaign

After nearly two years of helping clergy and parishioners engage more fully in the faith, *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* is ready for a new story to be written.

The **final 10 parishes** of the 199 parishes across our diocese are now in the **Solicitation phase** of the Campaign, which is scheduled to conclude in December and January.

The five-year **Pledge Redemption phase** ends in 2019.

The **Campaign results** will be announced this winter by Bishop Zubik. Events marking the occasion are being planned to give thanks for God's generosity to us, and our faithful response in returning His gifts to help build the Church.

### Honoring Her Commitment

It's been nearly six months since **Saint Teresa of Avila Parish** in Ross finished its fundraising efforts, but **Judy Dulemba** is still fired up about the importance of the Campaign.



"We can't be complacent and sit back, thinking someone else will help improve our parish," said Dulemba, who co-chaired Saint Teresa's campaign and spoke passionately at Masses. "It's our responsibility to **leave a legacy of faith**, to ensure the church is here for future generations."

Fulfilling her **multi-year pledge** is part of that commitment.

"I don't like to ask people for money, but this is something I really believe in," Dulemba added. "We need to keep the excitement going."

St. Teresa of Avila Parish's funds will go toward renovating Shoppol Hall, new carpeting in the church, installing an elevator between the hall and the church, and connecting the upper and lower parking lots.

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## Go Green Give Online

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:





## Progress in Our Parishes

Religious education and previously unaffordable maintenance projects head the list of dreams becoming a reality in parishes across our diocese, thanks to gifts to *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*

At **Saint Scholastica Parish** in Aspinwall, **Father Jim Torquato** reports they've been able to hire an assistant director for Religious Education and Youth Ministry. Windows also were replaced in their parish school.

Other parish highlights:

- **Father John Rushofsky**, pastor of **Saint Sebastian Parish** in Ross, expects construction to be completed in November on a new elevator for their school.
- **Saint Teresa of Lisieux Parish** in Munhall repaired their school roof and boiler, according to **Father Terry O'Connor**. They also installed steel doors in the school, and the church bell is ringing again.
- New lights and carpeting have been installed in the church at **Saint Michael Parish** in Elizabeth. **Father Thomas Wagner** adds that an endowment fund is being established for several parish ministries.
- **Father Pierre Falkenhan** reports good news at **Our Lady of the Valley Parish** in Donora—they've been able to repave the upper church parking lot. At **Mary, Mother of the Church Parish** in Charleroi, **Father Gerald Mikonis** says the old pastoral center was demolished in time to create parking space for the parish festival.
- The rectory phones and the church sound system at **Saint Alphonsus Parish** in Springdale are being upgraded.



St. Michael Parish, Elizabeth

## Saint Anthony School Scholarships Available



Thanks to support from a benefactor, the **Saint Anthony School Programs** for children with intellectual disabilities will be able to increase enrollment by 20 percent next year.

A donation from **The Ann and Frank Cahouet Foundation** to the Campaign will help fund 20 new scholarships for Saint Anthony students whose families demonstrate financial need, according to **Jerry Gaughan**, executive director of Saint Anthony Charitable Foundation. Each scholarship is valued at \$5,000.

About 100 Saint Anthony students are currently enrolled in Catholic elementary, high school and college classroom sites in our diocese. The programs offer an inclusive education of **academic studies** and **vocational training** to help young people with autism, Down syndrome and other special needs to live as independently as possible after graduation.

Interested parents should visit [www.StAnthonyKids.org](http://www.StAnthonyKids.org) or call 724-940-9020.

## Lowering Campaign Expenses

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.

That's according to the **U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops**. *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* reflects this teaching.

Campaign policy allows for no more than **seven cents** of each dollar raised to be used for **soliciting and collecting gifts**.

Due to careful stewardship of donations, expenses are trending downward toward **six percent**.

That means more funds for parish priorities.