

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR

THE CHURCH ALIVE!

FOR ONE CHURCH *Alive* IN SIX COUNTIES

GOOD WORKS

An Impact Report to Donors – Fall 2015

SERVING SENIORS WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY

Our Campaign for The Church Alive! is helping to bring Christ to the elderly.

Thanks to sacrificial gifts from the late **Rita M. McGinley** and **Ann & Frank V. Cahouet Foundation**, equipment has been installed in three retirement communities to allow Catholics to view the daily Mass and rosary online through ChristianAssociatesTV.org.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive from residents of **Paramount Senior Living** in Whitehall, **St. Augustine Plaza** in Lawrenceville and the **Oakmont Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation**.

“Saying the rosary helps keep me close to where I hope to go someday,” said **Mildred Giel**, former parishioner of Resurrection Parish in Brookline.

Previously, the faithful could view daily Masses from Saint Paul Cathedral and Saint Mary of Mercy only on Comcast channel 95, which is limited to the City of Pittsburgh.

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

Knights Bequest Benefits Parish



Bishop David Zubik (center), Rev. Edward Yuhus (left) and Rev. Paul Grunebach at a recent groundbreaking ceremony at Ave Maria Parish in Bentleyville. The local Knights of Columbus council donated their hall to the parish, which will be expanded with Church Alive campaign funds to include a chapel, religious education classrooms, offices and a conference room.

Progress in Our Parishes

Father Joseph McCaffrey wants to make sure campaign donations at his parish are spent on mission as well as mortar. So the pastor of **Saints John & Paul Parish** in Franklin Park/Marshall Township hired an outreach coordinator who is leading their Faith in Action service program. In less than one year, nearly 500 parishioners have helped the needy in the Pittsburgh region.

The Campaign is helping to fund the ChristLife evangelization program at **Saint Teresa of Avila Parish** in Ross. **Father Bob Vular** says parishioners are learning how to minister to those in need while also growing closer to one another and to God. Donations also will be used to renovate the parish social hall and restrooms.



New steps at Saints Simon & Jude Parish

Investments in pastoral programs are ahead at **Saints Simon & Jude Parish** in Scott. But **Father Jay Donahue** said they first had to address their infrastructure needs. New steps were built from the parking lot to the parish life center, the church and rectory roofs were replaced, a new organ was installed, and the women’s restroom renovated.

The broken air conditioning units at **Our Lady of Grace Parish** in Scott are being replaced. Previously the parish installed new roofs on several buildings, replaced lighting in the church, and put in new windows and an alarm system in the parish school.

A long-deferred maintenance project at **Good Samaritan Parish** in Ambridge has been completed. **Father Joe Carr** said bricks that were about to fall off the parish center have been fixed and repointed. Repairs are also being made to the slate roof.

The interior of the church building at **Saint Patrick Parish** in McKeesport is a lot brighter with the installation of energy-efficient lighting, according to **Father Vince Velas**. The interior also was repainted.

Saint Januarius Parish in Plum refurbished their sanctuary with campaign funds. **Father Ken Sparks** said carpeting was removed from the walls, which were then repainted. Work will continue on the rest of the interior walls and ceiling.

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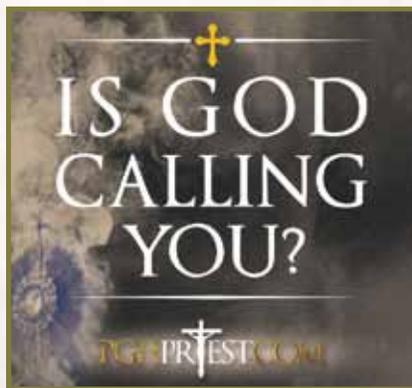
You save postage and paper checks while lowering campaign expenses. Electronic payments are easy to set up. Enroll today at <http://churchalivepgh.org/payments/> or scan:



Grant Supports Priestly Vocations

Interest in vocations to the priesthood is on the rise in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and getting a boost from a new campaign grant.

Father Joe Freedy, vocations director for the diocese, said **40 men** attended their Quo Vadis Days retreat led by the seminarians in 2013; this year there were **80 men**. Attendance at Christmas discernment retreats has increased over the past three years from **17 to 32**.



The most visible sign of increased promotions in parishes are “discernment stations” featuring banners that pose the question, “Is God Calling You?” The stations are being installed initially in about two dozen churches, with the goal of placing them in all 200 parishes across the diocese.

The grant will also help pay for enhancements to the vocations web site, PghPriest.com, which features engaging videos, targeted online advertising, discernment groups and retreats and available printed materials.

The rise of secularism, hectic lifestyles and constant media stimulation can make it difficult to hear and understand God’s call. The Office of Priestly Vocations seeks to cast a wide net to find men who are considering this call and to personally connect with them, believing that no one should discern alone.

“God has a perfect plan for each of us, and to the extent that we follow it we become conduits of God’s love around us,” Father Freedy said. “It takes more courage today to listen to Him and follow where He leads.”

Being Good Stewards of God’s Gifts

Sometimes we can put life on automatic pilot, forgetting about our blessings and our baptismal call to share those gifts with others.

Christian Stewardship means respecting and sharing our time, talent and treasure as an expression of gratitude to God, so that the Good News of Jesus Christ may be shared with those who do not know Him.

All we possess is a gift from God, including our time—each of us is given only so much of it. Likewise, we are all given various talents and are called to use our God-given abilities for the benefit of others.

Likewise, we are called to share our treasure, not only because it comes from God, but because each of us has a need to give. We not only feel better for helping others, we have a positive impact in the lives of our fellow man.

The Power of Prayer

The Church of Pittsburgh faces great challenges, and in order to meet them we must begin with prayer.

On Mission for The Church

Alive!, a dynamic planning initiative focused on growth through evangelization, calls Catholics to engage in prayer, study and consultation with the goal to provide more vibrant liturgies, invigorate faith formation, strengthen school and parish partnerships, and increase participation of the faithful in the life of the Church.

The first year focuses on prayer and will continue in all 200 parishes through next spring.

All are asked to make use of seven “foundation stones” as part of the planning process — prayer, study, collaboration, teamwork, openness, listening and trust.

On Mission for The Church Alive! will explore innovative models of ministry, including inter-parish collaboration, ministry teams serving more than one parish, and multiple parishes served by one pastor, in response to changing demographics in parishes and a declining number of priests.

For more information, visit OnMissionChurchAlive.org.

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