

## GOOD WORKS

An Impact Report to Donors – Summer 2014

### CAMPAIGN GRANTS DELIVER IMPACT



**Clemmie Roberts** admits she was too proud at first to get help from the **Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center**, going seven years without health insurance after her husband passed away.

But since she began visiting the facility a year ago, her health has improved. “When you call upon God, He will always answer,” she said.

Clemmie is one of more than 19,000 patients served at the Free Health Care Center since 2007, which is expanding thanks in part to a grant provided through gifts from more than 39,000 donors to *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*

The non-profit volunteer board of *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* Inc. recently voted unanimously to award several other grants, including:

- \$1 million for an endowment to provide support to help underwrite a **full-time dentist** at the CCFHCC
- \$1 million for an endowment fund to create the pro-life **New Roselia Program**, reaching out to help young expectant mothers and their newborns
- \$2 million for an endowment fund to provide **need-based tuition grants** for Catholic families struggling to keep their children enrolled in Catholic elementary and secondary schools
- \$208,360 to further promote Bishop Zubik’s **pastoral letter**, *The Church Evangelizing!*, including translation of the letter into Spanish and electronic formats to reach younger adults and many who have left the Church
- \$151,080 to upgrade *The Pittsburgh Catholic* web site, its servers and software, expanding the reach of Catholic communications in the digital age

### Good Stewardship in Glenshaw

The fundraising period of the Campaign ended last December for **Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish** in Glenshaw, but lay leaders plan to remain engaged over the next five years and beyond.

**Father John Marcucci**, pastor of Saint Mary’s, said an eight-member **Church Alive team** is overseeing donations from the Campaign, allocating the funds for ministries, capital improvements and a new endowment program.

Several of the volunteers helped to run the Campaign and led the planning process for the Parish Case statement, which included seven brainstorming sessions to get parishioners’ input.

Donations will be used for faith formation, youth ministry and evangelization, as well as renovation to the church interior and starting an endowment fund to receive future bequests.

“We’ve always invited parishioners to share their time, talent and treasure,” Father Marcucci said. “Someone always raises their hand to help. They’ve been very generous.”

### Happy to Sacrifice

When Bishop Zubik asked all Catholics to prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift to the Campaign, **Dave Hess** reflected on the word “sacrifice.”

So he made a pledge to the Campaign, then increased it—twice.

“I needed to do something that was above and beyond ‘comfortable,’” said Hess, a member of **Holy Trinity Parish** in Robinson. “There are younger parishioners putting their kids through our parish school who are donating more.”

Hess was also happy to volunteer for the Campaign.

“We asked parishioners to help renew the FACE of the church through interior renovations,” Hess said. “Now we’re focused on renewing the FAITH of the church through evangelization. No question we’ve had a fire ignited.

“It’s all about drawing others in—to worship at Mass and become more involved in the life of the parish. It’s marvelous to see the seeds planted, watered and growing.”



## Campaign Succeeding Everywhere

**Father Thomas Wilson** understandably had concerns about the ability to run a successful campaign at **Saint John Vianney Parish**. The faith community serves the aging, less affluent Pittsburgh neighborhoods of Allentown, Arlington Heights, Beltzhoover, Knoxville and Mount Oliver.

Yet Saint John Vianney became the first parish last summer to surpass its standard target, as Father Wilson thanked his people for their generosity.

In Donora, where banks and supermarkets have closed, **Our Lady of the Valley Parish** raised 136 percent of its campaign target. **Father Pierre "Bud" Falkenhan Jr.** said he was "blown away" by the response, adding that everyone who gave was very generous.

**Father John Bauer**, pastor of Saint Hugh and Our Lady of Consolation parishes in Greene County, admitted he was worried about the timing of the Campaign with the local economy sputtering. But Saint Hugh went well over target.

As Bishop Zubik prayerfully ends all his messages, "Nothing is impossible with God."

## Teaching the Children, Who Teach Us



The students of **Saint Agnes Parish School** in West Mifflin are filled with thoughts and activities of summer, but lessons learned last school year undoubtedly are not far off.

Their principal, **Sister Cynthia Wessel**, decided to use the opportunity of the Campaign to teach about **stewardship**. She visited every classroom and spoke about the importance of giving to others.

Creating a piggybank from an old pretzel jar with a cutout of a schoolhouse in front of it, Sister Cynthia invited the students to donate to the Campaign. They quickly raised \$250.

Sister Cynthia said they made sacrifices like not buying ice cream at lunchtime. Even more importantly, the students learned the concept of stewardship, later donating money to the missions.

"If the kids can do it, we adults can do it," Sister Cynthia said.

## PROGRESS IN OUR PARISHES



It's been impossible for members of **Our Lady of Fatima Parish** in Hopewell Township not to notice the first improvements from *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* A giant crane has lifted workers repairing the tower roof on the church.

**Father Howard Campbell** reports that Campaign funds will be used next to replace the boiler in Fatima House, followed by new lighting, doors and school restrooms.

Many parishes are now able to address long-deferred maintenance projects through the Campaign:

- **Saint Bernard Parish** in Mount Lebanon is restoring the garage and porch roofs, according to **Father David Bonnar**, along with fixing steps between the upper and lower parking lots, along with other repairs. "We're beginning to see the fruits of the Campaign," Father Bonnar said. "We are blessed and grateful."
- Work is underway at **Saint Patrick Parish** in McKeesport. **Father Vince Velas** said handrails are being added to the altar steps, energy-efficient lighting installed and the interior will be painted.
- Bids are out to replace the school windows at **Holy Family Parish** in New Brighton, according to **Father Tom Kredel**. Plans are being drawn up for new restrooms in the basement.
- **Saint Ann Parish** in Waynesburg has used Campaign funds to hire a Director of Religious Education, according to **Father Rick Thompson**. The parish also has launched a new web site, [www.stannchurchwbg.org](http://www.stannchurchwbg.org), and will be making capital improvements.
- The old wooden doors at **Saint Jude the Apostle Parish** in Wilmerding are being replaced with new glass doors. **Father Norbert Campbell** said they also need a new door by the choir loft and will be repairing pews.