

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR

# THE CHURCH ALIVE!

FOR ONE CHURCH *Alive* IN SIX COUNTIES

## GOOD WORKS

An Impact Report to Donors – Summer 2016

### FORMING DISCIPLES IN OUR PARISHES



Vacation Bible School at St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin Parish

Bringing people to Jesus involves much more than just inviting inactive Catholics to return to Mass. It means going “On Mission” in our towns and neighborhoods.

That’s the focus of a **pilot evangelization initiative** being funded by sacrificial gifts to *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*

The effort involves four stages: encountering Christ, growing in faith, discerning our gifts, and answering the call to mission.

The parishes and clusters participating are: **St. Maria Goretti**, Pittsburgh; **St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin**, Whitehall; **Mary, Mother of the Church**, **Our Lady of the Valley** and **St. Damien of Molokai** in the Mon Valley; **Our Lady of Fatima**, Hopewell Township and **St. Frances Cabrini**, Center Township, Beaver County; **St. Patrick**, Canonsburg; **St. Wendelin**, **St. John**, **Mater Dolorosa** and **St. Joseph** in Butler County; and **Immaculate Conception**, Washington.

### Every Gift Matters

What can a story about a **poor widow** teach us about sacrifice?

In the Gospels of Mark and Luke, Jesus observes how people put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. But a widow dropped in two small coins.

Jesus told his disciples that she put in more than all the others. “For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood,” Jesus says.

And so it is with sacrificial gifts to *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* When the historic initiative began in 2013, **Bishop David Zubik** asked for equal sacrifice, not equal gifts.

**Father David DeWitt**, pastor of **Risen Lord** and **Incarnation of the Lord** parishes in Pittsburgh, said, “A number of people may have contributed smaller amounts, but together these gifts help make a difference.”

Your gift matters. Thank you!

### Progress in Our Parishes



Saint Sebastian Parish, Ross Township

**Saint Sebastian** parishioners now have a spacious church narthex, thanks to sacrificial gifts to the campaign. **Father John Rushofsky** said they’ve also completed a new handicapped parking lot in front of the rectory and upgraded lighting in the church.

A major renovation of the church interior is underway at **Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish** in Pleasant Hills. **Father Dale DeNinno** said they’re placing the tabernacle in the center of the sanctuary, enlarging the vestibule and choir loft, creating a bride’s room and restroom, and installing a new HVAC system and lighting.

A new family catechesis program is bringing parishioners closer to Jesus at **Our Lady of Joy Parish** in Holiday Park. **Father Al Zapf** said the campaign also is funding the renovation of restrooms in Marchukonis Hall under the church.

Five of the six confessionals at **Saint Paul Cathedral** in Pittsburgh’s Oakland section are being renovated, according to **Father Kris Stubna**. Other campaign projects included refurbishing the Holy Door for the Year of Mercy, repairing a ramp, and beautifying the grounds.

**Saint Alphonsus Parish** in Wexford completed several urgent repair and maintenance projects with support from the campaign. **Father Kevin Fazio** reports the roof and exterior of the skylight on the newer side of the church have been repaired, stained glass windows are being refurbished, and new retaining walls were built.

**Father Chris Donley** at **Saint Raphael Parish** in Pittsburgh’s Morningside neighborhood said they’re using campaign funds to update the school library, create new meeting space, and move the parish center into the school building.

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## Peru Mission Teams Reach Out to Needy

Three dozen volunteer missionaries—ranging from high school teens to grandparents—traveled nearly 8,000 miles in July to help serve the destitute poor at the **diocesan medical mission** in **Chimbote, Peru**.

Their perspective has changed forever.

“Bishop Zubik commissioned us to ‘see’ and ‘be’ the face of Christ along the way,” said **Dr. Patrick Joyce**, diocesan director for Stewardship. “Our team will not soon forget what we witnessed.”

Church Alive! donors are helping to expand the outreach to the poor through Chimbote’s **Center for Social Works and Maternity Hospital of Mary**, where more than 95,000 babies have been safely born over the past 50 years. It includes an outpatient clinic, pharmacy, laboratory and children’s shelter; as well as home visits by healthcare/social workers.

The original clinic was handling five times the number of patients it was intended to treat. A **larger building** is being constructed, **new equipment** purchased, and **home outreach** is being increased.

One goal of this year’s trip is to help more mission partners understand the impact of the work and return to the diocese to share the story.



New life at the maternity hospital in Chimbote, Peru

## Consultation Meetings To Start In Fall

Thousands of the faithful turned out this summer at 18 information sessions held across our diocese for **On Mission for The Church Alive!**, in preparation for important consultation meetings this fall.

Attendees learned about the realities facing the Church of Pittsburgh and our collective dreams for the future. Since 2000, **Mass attendance** diocesan-wide has fallen 40 percent, **participation in the sacraments** is down 45-50 percent, half the parishes are running **operational deficits**, and pending retirements will mean **half as many priests** will be available within a decade.

“We are living in a time of change,” said **Father John Marcucci**, one of four presenters at the sessions. “We need effective ways to bring people back to the church, engage young Catholics and care for the aging.”

District consultations to review **draft models of ministry** and propose feedback will begin **Sept. 26**, followed by parish consultations starting **Oct. 10**.

From **February to April 2017**, parish leaders will discuss common themes with neighboring parishes, then the **On Mission Commission** will review all feedback, refine models and make recommendations to Bishop Zubik. The bishop will announce his decision in **early 2018**.

To learn more, visit [OnMissionChurchAlive.org](http://OnMissionChurchAlive.org)

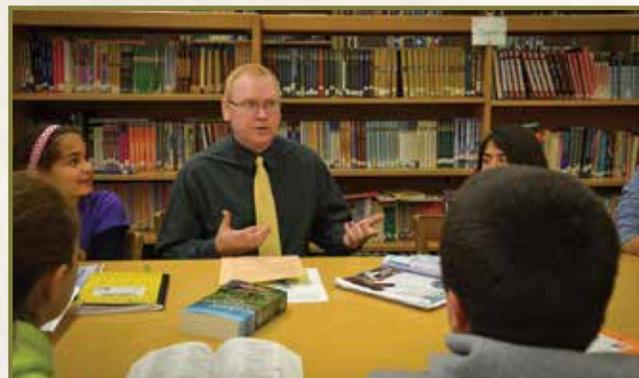


## Campaign Board Invests In Future

Sacrificial gifts to the campaign not only support parishes but are making a positive impact diocesan-wide.

The independent volunteer board of directors of **Our Campaign for The Church Alive, Inc.** recently approved new grants:

- **Seminarian formation**- The Shepherd’s Care Fund II helps pay rising tuition, room and board costs and other educational expenses for those preparing for the priesthood. It also supports expanded promotion of priestly vocations.
- **Education for Priests and Lay Leaders**- two pilot programs will be developed to help train our clergy, Lay Ecclesial Ministers and other lay leaders to support the On Mission initiative.
- **Urban youth ministry**- expansion of the Dirty Vagabond Ministries program to Sharpsburg, where an increasing number of young people are in need of guidance. The effort is experiencing early success in Pittsburgh’s Bloomfield/Garfield/Friendship neighborhoods.
- **Catholic Campus Ministry**- support for a campus ministry director to serve California University of PA, Washington & Jefferson College and Waynesburg University; student interns to assist the campus minister at Penn State Beaver and Robert Morris University; and diocesan-wide student leadership training, formation and marketing.
- **Parishes in Need where the Church must remain present: Greene County**. Strategic assistance to support youth ministry, including retreats, education and social events, as well as outreach to seniors.
- **Catholic Communications**- funding for mobile video equipment to cover events across the diocese, remote-control video cameras to replace aging equipment at Saint Paul Cathedral and continue the televised daily Mass, and a new editing suite.



Funds will be used to train Lay Ecclesial Ministers like Steve Swank at Saint Malachy Parish