

St. Mary of Annunciation



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

*A \$350 million capital campaign for strong parishes,
Catholic education and faith formation in the Archdiocese of Chicago*

“Day after day, both in and around the temple and from house to house,
they continued to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”

Acts 5:42



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Almighty and ever-loving God,
Your Son is the Way, the Truth and the Life.
As his disciples, we follow his way,
Believe his truth, and live his life.

Heavenly Father,
raise up a new generation of disciples
with fervor and eagerness
to teach and proclaim Jesus Christ,
risen from the dead,
the One who tells who we are,
shows us how to love,
and assures our salvation.
Bless this Archdiocesan Campaign
“To Teach Who Christ Is.”

Lord God,
may donors discover in themselves
your gift of a generous and sacrificial spirit
that flows from a love for the Church
and supports her mission
to teach who Christ is.

May the pattern of holiness,
the Virgin Mary, Christ’s mother and ours,
open our hearts anew with the desire
for your will to be done,
through Jesus Christ,
Your Son and Our Lord.

Amen.

A Message from Archbishop Blase Cupich



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On the day my appointment by Pope Francis as the Archbishop of Chicago was announced, Cardinal George noted that transitions in leadership always have the benefit of bringing a fresh set of eyes. I can tell you that my eyes have remained wide open with delight as I have seen firsthand the unique qualities of the lay men and women, priests and religious of this great local Church. There is an unparalleled strength and vigor in Chicago's Catholic community, which has historically been recognized far and wide, to the point that many dioceses in our country have been blessed by the deep faith and dedication of people from here.

All of this makes me quite honored to be your archbishop and to take up the task of leading an important effort begun by Cardinal George, namely, the *To Teach Who Christ Is* capital campaign.

The Cardinal shared with me the needs which the campaign will address and why the very ambitious goal of \$350 million has been set. A majority of the funds raised will be returned to parishes for their unique needs. Building strong parishes is essential to current and future generations of Catholics, and \$150 million will directly benefit the needs, and reward the efforts, of our parishes. Also vital is ensuring Catholic education is always available to families in need. A second \$150 million is being directed to the newly established Catholic Education Scholarship Trust to ensure scholarship awards are available to our children, our grandchildren, and even their children! This endowed fund truly helps guarantee excellence in Catholic education in perpetuity. How exciting it is to see faith formation being taken to a new, innovative level, and support given to catechists, as well as critical facility issues being addressed at our most vulnerable churches and properties.

My simple request to you is to join the thousands of Catholics across the Archdiocese who have already pledged a gift to the campaign. By coming together to support the needs of today and tomorrow we not only will benefit from our partnership with one another, but also be true to the rich heritage of our ancestors who built our churches and schools and established educational and social programs that have enriched all of our lives. We can have that same kind of impact on the Church for years to come, ever faithful to our call *To Teach Who Christ Is*.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Blase J. Cupich". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

A Message from Father Jerry Jacob



Dear Friends,

St. Mary of the Annunciation is participating in *To Teach Who Christ Is*, a capital campaign to benefit important ministries in the Archdiocese of Chicago and parishes, including ours. We join with faithful from across the Archdiocese who are also pledging their commitment to ensure our local Church is strong and vibrant for generations to come.

Our parish exists, and has thrived since 1864, because of the generosity of many. As your 18th pastor, I am amazed at how parishioners have always worked together to meet needs that arise, such as when we constructed and then dedicated our new, beautiful church and offices in 2002. Truly, we have created an inspiring community at St. Mary of the Annunciation.

To Teach Who Christ Is gives us the opportunity to once again band together — not only as a parish but as an Archdiocese. We form a community of faith with 2.2 million Catholics in Cook and Lake counties and, therefore, we share in meeting the needs of our local Church. The majority of these needs affect us all, but a few address challenges for the economically distressed among us. What an opportunity to live out our call to serve as disciples of Christ!

St. Mary of the Annunciation will also have the opportunity to meet local needs through *To Teach Who Christ Is*. The Archdiocese is offering St. Mary an incredible opportunity to pay off the \$4.8 million debt that remains from building our new church and facilities. In return for \$1.2 million in parish campaign proceeds, the Archdiocese will match those payments on an extraordinary 3-to-1 basis! This will completely retire our debt and enable St. Mary to pursue new initiatives to serve the mission of Christ and increase the vitality of our parish.

Our campaign goal is \$2,350,000, of which \$1,710,000 will be used to retire our debt and, once that has been fulfilled, to address a number of parish concerns. A team of parishioners and I have spent several months determining how to best use the additional funds we raise through the campaign. The committee decided that, besides eliminating our debt, we would repave our aging parking lots and complete several much-needed renovations in our historic 1869 church. You can read about these projects on the following pages.

Please join me in thanking the parishioners on our campaign team for their leadership, along with Archbishop Blase Cupich, who is dedicated to completing this important effort that Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., initiated.

Please take a moment to review the impact *To Teach Who Christ Is* will have both in our parish and in the Archdiocese of Chicago. This campaign has my full support and, as your pastor, I hope you will embrace this opportunity for our parish.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Jerry Jacob

To Teach Who Christ Is

The Catholic Church in Chicago has had a tremendous impact on both our local community and on society as a whole. Each day, the Gospel guides more than two million Catholics in Cook and Lake counties, and the Archdiocese of Chicago fulfills Christ's call to love and serve His children through its many programs and ministries.

Gifts to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign will benefit six elements vital to securing the future of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

\$150 million for Parishes

Ensuring parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago are strong and vibrant communities of faith is the primary mission of *To Teach Who Christ Is*. A full \$150 million of campaign funds will remain in parishes to address local, pressing needs. If our parish meets its campaign goal, we will receive \$1,710,000.



Since its founding 152 years ago by German farmers, St. Mary of the Annunciation has built a community of disciples, handed on the faith, and served the mission of Christ. Fourteen years ago, after years of generous sacrifice and hard work, the people of St. Mary dedicated a new church amidst the beauty of the rural setting of Fremont Center. We have been greatly blessed by the commitment of those who brought this vision to life and provided the means for our parish community to grow and serve both present and future generations.

The continued efforts and generosity of the people of St. Mary provided much of the funds needed to acquire the land and build the new church, meeting rooms and offices. In recent years, two of our three outstanding loans were paid in full. However, approximately \$4.8 million in debt remains.

Through *To Teach Who Christ Is*, St. Mary will be able to pay off this outstanding construction debt. In return for \$1.2 million in parish campaign proceeds, the Archdiocese will match those payments 3-to-1! The \$3.6 million from the Archdiocese, when combined with the \$1.2 million from St. Mary, will completely eliminate our \$4.8 million capital debt. Removing the burden of this debt is critical to the future vitality of our parish and will enable us to invest in new initiatives to advance our mission and services. We cannot afford to miss this extraordinary 3-to-1 match opportunity.

Our campaign goal is \$2.35 million, of which \$642,000 will go toward shared ministries of the Archdiocese. The remaining \$1.71 million will then be used to retire our debt and, once that has been fulfilled, to address a number of capital needs in the parish.

Those of you who have been parishioners of St. Mary for a few years will recall Abundant Hope, a \$10 million capital campaign launched in 2008 to retire our debt and build a new Intergenerational Learning Center. Unfortunately, the economy changed a few weeks after Abundant Hope began and, as a result, the campaign fell far short of its goal, raising \$1.99 million. In keeping with the dual purpose of the campaign, \$820,000 was applied to our debt while the balance remains in a dedicated account, earmarked for future expansion. These funds are far less than what is needed to construct the new building for which they were donated. We will revisit plans for a new building in the future, but our far more pressing need is to retire the parish debt. Indeed, we cannot move forward with a new building until we have paid for our current facilities.

To Teach Who Christ Is — A campaign for strong parishes, Cath



\$150 million for Scholarships

The Catholic Education Scholarship Trust will award scholarships to qualified students attending Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Chicago. An early gift to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign funded the Caritas Scholars Program, which has already provided scholarships to more than 2,000 students.



\$30 million for Critical Facility Issues

To Teach Who Christ Is will address urgently needed repairs in financially distressed parishes and help fund accessibility improvements. Funds will also create a system for tracking facility repairs to economically and collaboratively purchase construction services.



\$10 million for Religious Education — Catechesis

To Teach Who Christ Is will fund professional education scholarships for religious education coordinators, youth ministers, religious education directors and other certified catechetical leaders. Funds will also provide support for parish religious education programs.



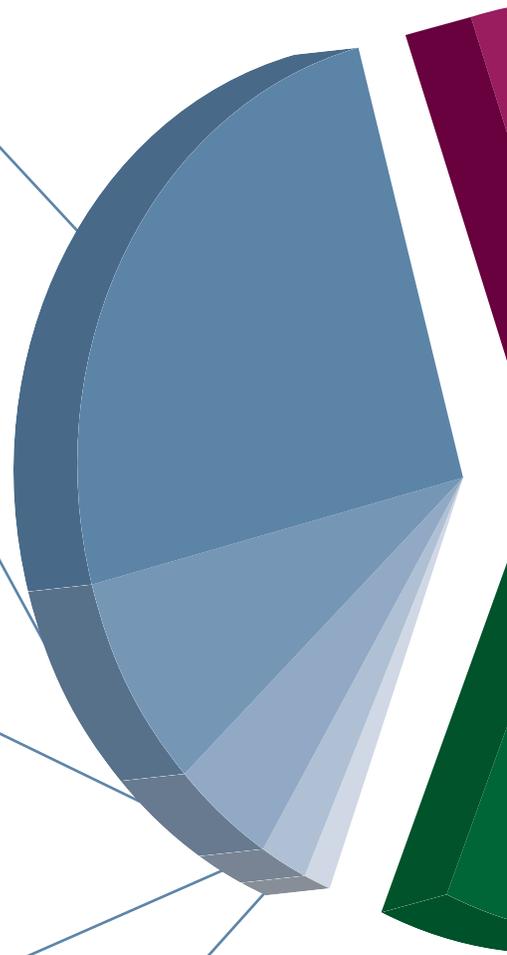
\$8 million for Academic Excellence

To Teach Who Christ Is will help strengthen the academic excellence of our Catholic schools through professional development grants for teachers and principals and by helping fund school reform efforts and technology upgrades.



\$2 million for Religious Education — Innovation

To Teach Who Christ Is will provide funds to identify, study and replicate the current best approaches to religious education.



Catholic education and faith formation

\$1.2 million for Debt Elimination

If we raise \$1.2 million to pay down our debt, the Archdiocese will match those funds 3-to-1. Our \$1.2 million, combined with the \$3.6 million match from the Archdiocese, will eliminate our entire debt of \$4.8 million. Being debt-free will allow us to explore other parish needs and projects in the future.



\$328,000 for Parking Lots

Our aging parking lots are crumbling and filled with dangerous potholes. Repeated patching is a stop-gap measure that does not remedy the long-term problem, and is not an efficient use of parish funds. We will repave the three parking lots to ensure safety and ease of access.



\$182,000 for Old Church Renovations

To improve our ability to serve the homeless through our PADS ministry, we will bring the kitchen of our historic 1869 church up to contemporary standards and enhance its usefulness. In addition, we will renovate the basement of the little church to allow for greater use of the space for parish events and meetings as well as PADS. Lastly, we will replace the worn carpet in the worship space of the little church.



\$150 million for Scholarships

The Archdiocese of Chicago's Catholic schools have educated and formed generations of Catholic children in our faith. Today, more than 82,000 students attend 230 Catholic schools across Cook and Lake counties. To ensure generations to come may also receive the benefit of a Catholic education, \$150 million in campaign funds is being directed to the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust.

The Catholic Education Scholarship Trust is an independent trust, for which Northern Trust serves as the directed trustee. This endowment fund is invested to create spendable income as well as to achieve long-term appreciation of the capital. Scholarship awards will be made to qualified students as income is available.

To Teach Who Christ Is has also funded a pilot scholarship program, the Caritas Scholars Program, which has already provided scholarships to more than 2,000 children. These scholarship awards are not only helping to eliminate the financial barrier that often stands between families and a Catholic education, they are being given directly to children and their families, not to schools. Caritas scholarships follow children to whatever Catholic school they choose to attend, a measure of flexibility that will further help sustain the Catholic school system.

The Archdiocese of Chicago's Catholic school system is the United States' largest private school system and the recipient of the most U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Awards of any school system in the nation.



\$30 million for Critical Facility Issues



The Catholic churches of the Archdiocese of Chicago are more than places of worship to the 2.2 million Catholics who live within its boundaries. Their steeples, spires and stained glass are a constant reminder of Christ among us. In total, more than 2,800 individual structures — sacred spaces as well as parish activity buildings, convents, rectories and schools — can be found in Cook and Lake counties.

Many of these buildings have needs and issues beyond what some parishes in distressed communities are able to address given their financial circumstances. Addressing these issues in a timely manner is often critical.

A full \$30 million of the funds raised for *To Teach Who Christ Is* will be designated for urgently needed repairs in low-income parishes and to help them provide for handicapped accessible services. In addition, a facilities information management system will be created to track projects across the Archdiocese and allow for a more collaborative and economical approach to purchase construction services.

\$10 million for Religious Education — Catechesis

Beginning with parents and extending to all members of our community, the call to make known the love of Christ and His holy Church both challenges and invigorates us. Religious education is a ministry for which we are all responsible.

More than 96,000 elementary and secondary school children are enrolled in religious education programs in parishes throughout Cook and Lake counties. In addition, parishes provide religious education to teens through youth ministry as well as to adults, including those seeking to enrich their journey with Christ or join our faith through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Ensuring religious education remains a high priority requires educated and trained catechetical leaders to teach the Word and parish programs that evolve along with the communities they serve. *To Teach Who Christ Is* will provide \$10 million for the formation leading to Archdiocesan certification of religious education coordinators as well as youth ministers, and the ongoing formation of certified religious education directors and other certified catechetical leaders.





\$8 million for Academic Excellence

To Teach Who Christ Is will help enhance the academic excellence of our Catholic schools through professional development grants for teachers and principals and by helping fund school reform efforts and technology upgrades.

Lifelong learning is an integral element of the ethos of Catholic schools. This is as true for teachers as students. Providing teachers with the resources they need to continually enhance their education and empowering them to improve the student experience is the goal of the Teacher Professional Development Fund. *To Teach Who Christ Is* will provide grants to aid teachers in expanding and improving their skills as professionals, so they may have a greater impact on students.

Effective principals prioritize the development of high-performing teachers who have the instructional capacity to advance the mission of the school. To ensure good principals and Catholic educators with the capacity for leadership become great principals, the Principal Leadership Development Fund will award grants for graduate school programs, continuing education and leadership development opportunities at colleges and universities.

Changing demographics in Chicago, along with other issues in the Church and society, have highlighted the need to reform and revitalize our Catholic schools. *To Teach Who Christ Is* will allow the Archdiocesan Office for Catholic Schools to respond to these changes by empowering individual schools with school reform efforts.

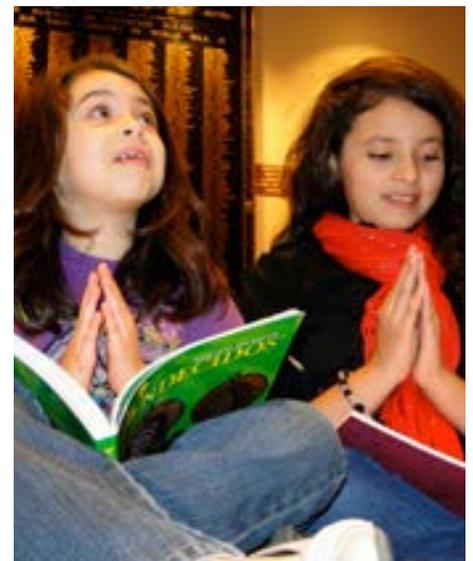


Tools critical to creating effective 21st century learning environments, such as computers and tablets and blended learning programs, increase the effectiveness and competitiveness of schools and ensure teachers have the technology to implement a diverse and integral curriculum. The campaign will provide matching funds through the School Technology Fund to provide technology grants to our schools as well as resources for school system-wide services, such as data plans, phone services and other related expenses.

\$2 million for Religious Education — Innovation

Religious education — *teaching who Christ is* — is an integral part of our Church’s mission. Those involved with ministry in the Church today are keenly aware of the need to effectively engage children, youth, young adults and adults in the Catholic faith.

Parishes throughout the United States, including in the Archdiocese of Chicago, are now creating innovative religious education programs based on new models of child, youth and adult learning.



To Teach Who Christ Is seeks to provide a minimum of \$2 million to identify, study and replicate the current best approaches to religious education. The Archdiocesan Department of Parish Life and Formation will engage a group of parish leaders with a goal of examining strong religious education and faith formation programs and then, after measuring outcomes, replicating them for broader use. Funds for innovation will support the enhancement of religious education programs in parishes, as well as professional development, staff and volunteer training, and equipment.

Day after day, both in and around the temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach Jesus Christ. -Acts 5:42



An Invitation

Let us reflect on the many blessings the Lord has given us. Recognizing that all we have are gifts from the Lord, we are asked in the Gospel to give back a portion of these gifts in thanksgiving for God's generosity and goodness to us.

Scripture tells us that Christian stewardship goes beyond giving of our surplus. As stewards of Christ, our gifts should be made from our substance. In this spirit of Christian stewardship, we undertake this extraordinary campaign and ask for your prayerful consideration of a gift to support St. Mary of Annunciation Parish and the ministries of our Church.

Together, we can *teach who Christ is* to the next generation of Catholics, and ensure our parish remains a strong and vibrant community of faith.

ST. MARY OF ANNUNCIATION PARISH
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