

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR

# THE CHURCH ALIVE!

FOR ONE CHURCH *Alive* IN SIX COUNTIES

## GOOD WORKS

Annual Report to Donors – Winter 2017



### THE EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT OF

## *Giving Together!*

Before Jesus left the earth he anticipated that future generations would depend on numerous leaders emerging in His Church. He sent forth the 12 apostles and many followed.

As a supporter of *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* you live out the legacy of believers who since then have spread the Gospel, responding with the same trust that Jesus placed in his disciples. You saying Yes! to your parish and the wider Church shows how much God is alive and how much he wants to reach out to us.

In seeking to strengthen our Church, each of us answers our baptismal call to be living members of the Body of Christ and of one another.

We share this dream for *The Church Alive!* through our steadfast prayer and financial support. By giving together and by each of us sacrificing from our needs, we—both collectively and individually—are making an extraordinary impact in our parishes and across the six counties of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Many of those stories are shared in this Annual Report.

Thank you! Our sacrifices together are making the Church of Pittsburgh a vibrant community of faith each and every day.

Grateful for our belief that “Nothing is Impossible with God,” I am

Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend David A. Zubik  
Bishop of Pittsburgh

# *Making an Impact*



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Since the start of the campaign more than 45,000 donors representing 130,000 Catholics across the Diocese of Pittsburgh have made 552,993 outright gifts and pledge payments. Together, our sacrifices are creating a historic and positive impact through *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*

To date **\$130 million** has been received toward multiyear pledges totaling \$233.3 million to address extraordinary needs — to strengthen parishes, invigorate evangelization, revitalize sacramental life, support education and formation in the faith, train clergy and lay leaders, and serve the poor and marginalized.

Such sacrificial support has allowed churches to be constructed or renovated, as parishes are receiving the largest single portion of campaign funds.

Campaign funds are helping to meet needs diocesan-wide:

- Thousands of students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools are receiving additional tuition assistance through a 60 percent increase in the **Bishop's Education Fund**, and every Catholic high school in the Diocese has been awarded a **technology grant** to improve security and enhance 21st century learning environments.
- The growing number of retired diocesan priests will have more housing options with an expansion and upgrade of the **St. John Vianney Manor** retirement home.
- A **new evangelization initiative** is underway across the Diocese, bringing parishioners closer to Jesus and helping them better serve their parishes and communities.
- More clergy and lay leaders are receiving pastoral training through the **Good Leaders, Good Shepherds** and **Tending the Talents** courses.
- The poor, the marginalized, our disadvantaged neighbors are receiving much-needed medical and dental care through **Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center**. Expectant and new single mothers are receiving shelter, counseling and training through Catholic Charities' **Roselia Fund**.

All funds are being used only for the purposes described in the diocesan and parish case statements under the watchful oversight of the campaign board and pastors. Campaign expenses remain low at less than 7 percent, thanks to thousands of volunteers who helped to secure the gifts.

ON MISSION FOR  
**THE  
CHURCH  
ALIVE!**

## Stewardship and Discipleship

The diocesan-wide planning initiative *On Mission for The Church Alive!* invites each of us to envision how our parishes, schools and ministries can best respond to the changes in our communities so they can be vital centers of worship and service, and deepen people's relationship with Jesus.

The campaign is helping set the stage for the *On Mission* initiative by addressing the **extraordinary needs** of our local Church.

The focus of the campaign has been Catholic education and catechesis; formation and evangelization; and stewardship and charitable needs, which are vital for the Church's mission. The campaign also supports important **parish projects**, with many gifts being used for long-deferred **repair and maintenance**.

Our parishes are undergoing significant changes. From 2000 to 2015 **Mass attendance** in the Diocese decreased 40 percent, while **sacramental participation** declined 40 to 50 percent. Half of all parishes now experience **operational deficits**, and by 2025, the number of **diocesan priests** available for active ministry is expected to decrease from about 200 priests to 112.

These numbers reflect the reality that many people have lost their connection to Jesus and the Church. That is why *On Mission for The Church Alive!* is first and foremost about **sharing our faith in Jesus** with everyone we meet. We must help our parishes, schools and every faith community have the resources necessary to ensure vibrant worship and service. The campaign is a vital, effective tool for ensuring the success of that approach.



# Creating Community for Youth and Seniors



## Sharpsburg

More young people have been wandering the streets and drug use is on the rise, so **Father Michael Decewicz** knew he had to do something for his community.

The pastor of **St. Juan Diego Parish** in Sharpsburg reached out to Dirty Vagabond Ministries, a Christ-centered urban youth program that embraces Pope Francis' preference for "a church that is dirty because it's been on the streets."

Well-trained missionaries are considered to be "vagabonds" who work with at-risk teens.

"We're seeing a second generation of children who are unchurched," Father Decewicz said. "We want to give them a sense of self-worth and hope."

The parish also amended its campaign case statement, repurposing funds earmarked for renovating a community center to expand outreach to the needy, homebound elderly and youth and young adults of St. Juan Diego Parish. Father Decewicz and his parishioners are teaching by example what it means to be *The Church Alive!*

## Greene County

At the far southern end of our Diocese, five parishes in **Greene County** are able to reach out to youth and seniors with campaign resources provided through the generosity of their sisters and brothers.

The assistance comes through a diocesan campaign fund that helps struggling parishes in areas where the Church must remain present. This grant supports outreach to the elderly, poor and homeless, as well as shared religious education, including county-wide confirmation, youth development and retreats. Events such as attending a Pirates game (above) help build community among parishes.

Emergency warming centers are being built at St. Ann in Waynesburg, St. Ignatius of Antioch in Bobtown and St. Thomas (St. Marcellus social hall) in Clarksville to serve as storm shelters.

"We are focused on outreach and collaboration," said **Deacon Tom Raymond**, deacon administrator of the parishes, which also include St. Hugh in Carmichaels and Our Lady of Consolation in Nemaocolin.



Children play on the sidewalk near St. Mary Church, part of St. Juan Diego Parish.

## GIFTS TO DATE

As of December 31, 2016, of the \$233.3 million pledged to **Our Campaign for The Church Alive!**, Inc., **\$130 million (56%)** in payments has been received. Charitable grants totaling more than \$39 million have been awarded since the start of the campaign — **\$20.3 million** in 2016 alone (see pages 4–5).

Funds will continue to be returned to parishes across our Diocese as gifts are received and accounts reconciled.

### Summary of Results – as of December 31, 2016 – \$ in millions

	Pledged	Received	%
Parish phase	\$ 192.9	\$ 112.4	58%
Bishop phase	40.4	17.6	44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 233.3</b>	<b>\$ 130.3</b>	<b>56%</b>



## Our Campaign for The Church Alive! Diocesan Grants Awarded in 2016:

Case Component	Program	\$ Funded
Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center	Supplemental support to help pay the salary for a full-time dentist to treat uninsured patients	\$ 41,371
Catholic Communications	Production of televised Mass at St. Paul Cathedral, obtaining critical technology and staff training to further proclaim the Gospel	237,000
New Evangelization Program	Dirty Vagabond Ministry – Catholic street ministry to at-risk youth in Sharpsburg	115,000
Grants to Parishes in Need	Financial assistance to sustain and strengthen churches in Greene County	95,000
Education for Our Priests & Committed Lay Leadership	Development of <i>Good Leaders</i> , <i>Good Shepherds</i> and <i>Tending the Talents</i> leadership programs	115,465
Catholic Campus Ministry	Support for campus minister position, campus interns, and training at area universities and colleges	248,068
Seminarian Formation	The Shepherds' Care Fund II (endowment) to pay for tuition, room & board and other costs associated with educating our seminarians	3,000,000
Catholic Charities Mother Teresa Endowment Fund	Helping those in unexpected or ongoing crisis with emergency assistance	93,409
Our Sisters and Brothers in the Missions	Mission efforts in Chimbote, Peru, to rebuild, modernize and expand the health care clinic serving the poor and marginalized	50,000
Retired and Senior Priests	Facility expansion and improvements at St. John Vianney Manor priests' retirement home	5,000,000
Technology for Secondary Schools	Support for cybersecurity, tech-based physical plant security & upgraded networks and tech infrastructure at all 12 Catholic high schools in the Diocese	3,730,003
Students with Special Needs	McGuire Memorial Community Solutions NOW program to help individuals with disabilities develop job-readiness and daily living skills	50,000
New Evangelization Program	St. George Trek Scholarship program to help Boy Scouts become more aware of their vocation, including to the priesthood	8,000
Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center	Replacing old elevators that were no longer repairable, ensuring clients' access to medical/dental services on upper floors	250,000
Need-Based Tuition Grants	Support for the Bishop's Education Fund, enabling thousands of additional students to benefit from a Catholic education	6,877,587
New Evangelization	Preserve the Pittsburgh Creche – to replace failing electrical and lighting equipment	30,000
Grants to Parishes in Need	Assisting St. Stephen Parish to transform its former school into a new community center serving parishioners and the people of Hazelwood	250,000
New Roselia Program Fund Endowment	Catholic Charities assistance to homeless single mothers with housing, support and training	110,764
<b>Total Diocesan Grants – 2016</b>		<b>\$ 20,301,667</b>

*“This campaign is an opportunity to reach out through each of us with the hands, the heart and the face of Christ.”*

– Bishop David A. Zubik



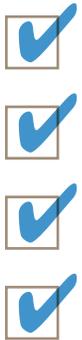
## ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

The volunteer board of directors of *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*, Inc., is focusing on earning donor trust through accountability and transparency in all that they do.

Directors oversee the policies, procedures and practices of managing the funds raised in the campaign. Receiving recommendations from the Grant Review Committee, the board evaluates grant applications, ensuring the requests align with the diocesan case for support.

Pastors and administrators also verify that campaign funds are being spent according to their authorized parish case statements, assuring donors that funds are being used as promised. If changes are necessary, the people in the pews hear from their pastor and councils what those modifications are and why they are necessary.

To learn more about the grant-making process and accountability process, visit [ChurchAlivePgh.org/grants.php](http://ChurchAlivePgh.org/grants.php)



### Examples of Impact

- A campaign grant is providing support to parents whose children have hearing loss. The **DePaul School for Hearing & Speech** in Pittsburgh is now able to offer more need-based scholarships for students in their toddler and upper elementary programs. DePaul is the only listening and spoken language school in the tri-state area.
- Safe housing is being provided for single mothers and their babies at **Catholic Charities Roselia Apartments**. Moms take classes in pregnancy and infant care, learning how to become more effective parents while receiving help from caseworkers to obtain employment and achieve stability in their lives with their children.



- More Catholics are seeking to return to **full sacramental participation** in the Church. Thanks to support from *Church Alive!* donors, Bishop Zubik **eliminated all fees** for those seeking a **marriage annulment** in our Diocese. Pope Francis has made it clear that marriage is indissoluble and should be seen as a gift, but he also stressed that not all failed marriages or remarriages are the same, urging divorced Catholics to repair their relationship with the Church.
- **Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center** has been able to quadruple the number of dental patients seen every year, thanks to a campaign grant that helps to underwrite the cost for a full-time dentist. The center provides free, comprehensive dental and medical care to uninsured and underinsured patients, regardless of religious affiliation.



# THE VALUE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

**M**ore struggling families and their children enrolled in Catholic schools will be benefiting from a dramatic increase in need-based tuition assistance, and all 12 Catholic high schools in the Diocese are upgrading facility security and technology thanks to campaign grants.

Average grant awards for tuition assistance have increased from about \$140 in 1995–96 to nearly \$1,000 in the current school year. The Campaign has allocated \$12 million to the **Bishop’s Education Fund**; approximately \$7 million was added in 2016 alone.

Meanwhile, continuing to improve technology remains a top priority. All 12 Catholic high schools in the Diocese will share in \$3.7 million in campaign grants to provide cybersecurity, tech-based physical plant security, and upgraded networks and technology infrastructure.

The funding will enable the schools to meet current and future curriculum and educational goals, providing shared learning within a campus, among and between schools, and globally.



## Families in Need Get Assistance

**S**acrificial gifts to *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* are helping educate more young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Families benefit from need-based scholarships to **St. Anthony School Programs**, which provide an inclusive Catholic education to students with Down syndrome, autism and other disabilities.

Academic studies and vocational training are offered to more than 120 St. Anthony students at Mary of Nazareth, St. Thomas More, St. Therese of Lisieux and St. Mary of the Assumption schools; Bishop Canevin, Serra Catholic and Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic high schools; and Duquesne University.

Duquesne students work closely with the St. Anthony kids as job coaches, helping them with training, balancing a checkbook, using ATMs and taking public transportation.

“*Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* helped us to raise our sights and serve more students in need,” said **Jerry Gaughan**, executive director of the St. Anthony Charitable Foundation. “Thank you to all the generous donors.”

*Above: St. Anthony School Programs student Maria Rajakovich (left) with her job coach, Duquesne University student Erin McGrady.*



### Catholic High Schools Receiving Technology Grants – Diocese of Pittsburgh

#### DIOCESAN

Bishop Canevin – Pittsburgh/Oakwood

Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic – Cranberry

Central Catholic – Pittsburgh/Oakland

Oakland Catholic – Pittsburgh/Oakland

St. Joseph – Natrona Heights

Serra Catholic – McKeesport

Seton-LaSalle Catholic – Mount Lebanon

Quigley Catholic – Baden

#### PRIVATE

Aquinas – Hampton

Holy Family – Emsworth

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart – Coraopolis

Vincentian – McCandless





## Caring for Our Senior and Retired Priests

After laboring in the Lord's vineyard in service of the Church and its people, retired priests of the Diocese soon will have a larger, updated home.

**St. John Vianney Manor** in Crafton is being renovated and expanded, thanks to the support of *Church Alive!* donors. The Diocese currently has about 100 retired priests, with many more expected to join them in the coming years as the large ordination classes of the 1960s and early 1970s approach retirement.

Four new residential suites are being constructed, for a total of 36 suites. Another 20 could be added in the future. Renovations also include a new kitchen, dining and living rooms, exercise facility, HVAC system and elevator. Individual rooms will include safety features for bathrooms.

"We are quite grateful to campaign donors for their heartfelt response to the needs of these good men who have faithfully served the Church," said **Father Philip Przybyla**, director of St. John Vianney Manor.

*Above: Father Przybyla (left) studies plans for the expansion project with retired Aux. Bishop William Winter.*



## Evangelization Effort to Deepen, Spread Faith

**A** pilot evangelization initiative is underway in 13 parishes across the Diocese, thanks to campaign funding. The goal of this three-year initiative is to help spur growth in discipleship in four stages: encountering Christ, growing in faith, discerning one's gifts and answering the call to mission.

Parishioners meet in small groups to deepen their formation, assess needs in their parishes and communities, and develop plans to meet those needs.

The parishes taking part 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, Mon Valley; Immaculate Conception, Washington; St. Patrick, Canonsburg; Our Lady of Fatima, Hopewell Township; St. Frances Cabrini, Center Township; and St. Wendelin, St. John, Mater Dolorosa and St. Joseph in Butler County.

Based on the experiences and evaluation of these parishes, other faith communities throughout the Diocese will have an opportunity to join in.

*Vacation Bible School participants at St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin Parish. The program is the fruit of an earlier evangelization effort.*



*Steve Swank, coordinator of religious education and youth minister at St. Malachy Parish in Kennedy Township, participated in the Tending the Talents leadership program.*



## Equipping Leaders for the Mission

Leadership development programs funded by *The Church Alive!* are helping to prepare God's people for a future when there will be a greater need for trained lay leaders in ministry.

Campaign funding is making possible the **Good Leaders, Good Shepherds** program for clergy and the **Tending the Talents** companion course for lay staff and pastoral council members in parishes.

The programs cover decision-making, problem-solving, how to give effective feedback and conflict resolution. Participants also learn their own leadership behavior styles, how to create a vision for a role and leading teams.

"As good shepherds with the heart of Christ, many of our priests are committed to leading parishes of missionary disciples," said **Father Joseph Mele**, diocesan secretary for leadership development.



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# Thank You!



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## GOOD WORKS

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