

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR

# THE CHURCH ALIVE!

FOR ONE CHURCH *Alive* IN SIX COUNTIES

## GOOD WORKS

An Impact Report to Donors – Summer 2015

### MAJOR MILESTONE FOR PARISHES

More than **\$20 million** has been invested to date for extraordinary needs in our parishes, thanks to the generosity of donors to *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*

The milestone was reached in May, shortly after the final 10 parishes concluded their active solicitation phase. Campaign funds are helping to expand ministries to God's people, including religious education, youth ministry and evangelization.

More than 44,000 gifts to the Campaign representing over 130,000 Catholics are making a positive impact in parishes like **St. Peter's** on Pittsburgh North Side, where **Father Vincent Zidek** said they are continuing to restore 14 stained glass windows.



Stained glass windows at St. Peter's North Side

The first phase of a major renovation project is getting underway soon at **St. Richard Parish** in Gibsonia, according to their pastor, **Father Tom Sparacino**. A driveway turnaround and canopy will be built at the church entrance. A chapel, youth center and multi-purpose rooms are planned.

Energy-efficient lighting is being installed in the church at **St. Maurice Parish** in Forest Hills. **Father John Skirtich** said a new phone system was put in earlier in the church, rectory and school.

**St. Ursula Parish** in Allison Park replaced the church exterior doors, according to **Father Garrett Dorsey**, who is retiring as administrator. The parish is also installing new doors in the school and cafeteria.

The church roof has been replaced at **Holy Family Parish** in Creighton, and the church interior painted.

At **Holy Family Parish** in New Brighton, **Father Tom Kredel** said they've renovated the church hall and made a restroom handicapped-accessible. School windows will be replaced next.

**Father Stan Gregorek**, pastor of **St. Mary Parish** in Cecil reports they have installed an organ, replaced the electronic bells and added handicapped-accessible restrooms in the church.

### Positive Impact from Diocesan Grants

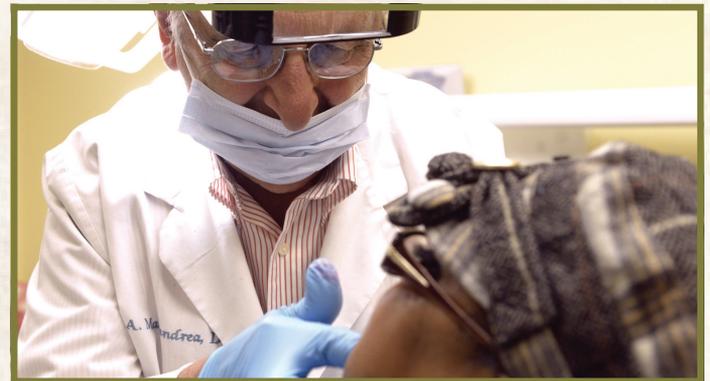
The non-profit volunteer board of directors for *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*, Inc. continues to practice good stewardship of gifts to our diocese.

To date, more than **\$10 million** has been distributed for ministries and programs supporting need-based Catholic school tuition assistance, evangelization, annulment fees and the working poor.

The board is tasked with ensuring that campaign funds are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Case for Support.

Some of the region's finest experts in finance, accounting, law and the Church are serving Bishop Zubik on the board, which is chaired by **J. Christopher Donahue**, president and CEO of Federated Investors Inc.

### More Smiles Thanks to Dental Program



Rooted in the Gospel and social teachings of the Church, the **Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center** is serving more uninsured patients in need of dental care.

Thanks to donations from *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* and other supporters, examination rooms were expanded from four to six. Demand is growing, since the Affordable Care Act does not cover dental services.

Learn more about how your gift is making a positive impact at the Center by viewing a video story on [ChurchAlivePgh.org](http://ChurchAlivePgh.org).

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR

THE CHURCH ALIVE!

Go Green Give Online

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:



## Beginning in Prayer

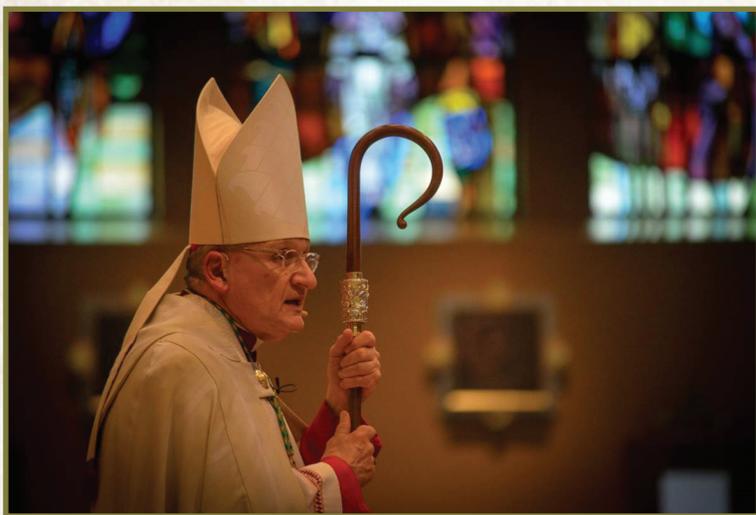
The third diocesan-wide Evening of Prayer, a **Festival of Praise with Sacred Music**, is set for **Wed. Aug. 12, 7 p.m.** at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood.

Bishop Zubik will call us to go *On Mission for The Church Alive!* and to fully live our faith.

*On Mission for The Church Alive!* is a dynamic planning initiative focused on growth through evangelization. The goal is to help our parishes, schools, health care facilities and every faith community to become even more vital communities of worship and service.

We are called to accept the invitation of Pope Francis to seek out and welcome those who have left the Church or are far from God. In order to encourage others to be friends of Jesus, each of us must deepen our relationship with him.

For more information, visit [OnMissionChurchAlive.org](http://OnMissionChurchAlive.org).



## Religious Gifts Lead All Others

The largest percentage of charitable giving in the U.S. last year went to religious organizations, according to a recent report.

Giving USA reported that donors gave nearly \$115 billion to houses of worship and other faith-based groups in 2014, or 32 percent of all donations.

Total charitable giving was listed at \$358.4 billion, the highest amount since before the Great Recession.

Individual giving made up 72 percent of all contributions.

ON MISSION FOR  
**THE CHURCH  
ALIVE!**

## Stewards of Creation

Pope Francis's highly anticipated encyclical on the environment is addressed to every person on the planet, but it has special meaning for Catholics who strive to be good Christian stewards.

*Laudato Si'*, which means "Praise be to you," is the only papal encyclical devoted to environmentalism. While global warming is one of the themes, the document covers much more.

"What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?," the Holy Father asks.

Pope Francis invites us to a dialogue on how to best care for the earth, noting that "a very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system," and that "humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption."

The U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship also reminds us that God created the world, but entrusts it to human beings. We are called to protect and preserve the environment and give joyful appreciation for the God-given beauty and wonder of nature.

In the same way, we are obliged to be stewards of the Church, helping to fulfill its mission of proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying.

All Catholics, are called to give generous support—time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances—to parish and diocesan programs.

In this way, as good stewards of creation, we take care of all the gifts that God gives us.

### LAUDATO SI'

ON CARE FOR  
OUR COMMON HOME



### POPE FRANCIS



ENCYCLICAL LETTER