

GOOD WORKS

An Impact Report to Donors – Summer 2017

FATHERS FARINA FUND COMES ALIVE!



Christine Patsch of St. Cecilia Parish is earning a degree thanks to support from the Fathers Farina Fund.

Forming lay leaders who help form our young people in the faith is the goal of a rejuvenated **Fathers Farina Church Alive! Fund**.

Thanks to your sacrificial gift to *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!*, the campaign's volunteer board of directors has been able to allocate \$4 million to expand the fund. An initial grant will help educate parish catechetical administrators, catechists, youth ministers, college campus ministers, Catholic school principals, and religion teachers.

The fund was founded by **Father Edward Farina** as a memorial to his four older brothers who preceded him in the priesthood. The first grant using campaign donations will support 40 masters-level scholarships, one course per student per semester, in theology,

religious education or related fields. It also will help fund practical, ministry-specific training, as well as purchasing books, manuals and DVDs.

The balance will help support other forms of professional development and provide training for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program.

NEW WAYS TO REACH YOUTH

The Church Alive! Campaign is providing a much-needed boost to parishes and schools in their efforts to **evangelize** and **support teachers and catechists**.

A campaign grant will provide instructional materials from the Sophia Institute's highly regarded "Spirit of Truth" curriculum, including lesson plans submitted by top religion teachers and catechists nationwide that have a proven track record of **forming young people** in the faith.

Books are being purchased for 3,000 students, along with instructor guides, support and professional development designed to help teachers grow in their own faith as well.



Tuition need continues to grow

Catholic schools are one of the best ways through which the Church brings young people into a relationship with Jesus and prepares them for life. Our schools provide:

- **Spiritual formation** that encourages virtue
- **Gospel values** that promote respect, compassion and service
- **Academic excellence** leading to success in higher education

Teachers focus on developing each student's God-given gifts, passing on the faith and putting it into action by serving others.

The **Bishop's Education Fund (BEF)** provides **tuition assistance** for Catholic families who qualify; yet this support covers less than half the **demonstrated need**, which continues to grow.

Due to this pressing need, Bishop Zubik has directed that every dollar raised from this fall's **BEF Appeal** in parishes be used for **direct student aid**, rather than being applied to the Fund's endowment.

Thank you for your past and future support of Catholic education.



ON MISSION FOR
**THE
CHURCH
ALIVE!**

ON MISSION TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

The faithful turned out in August for a series of **Summer Sessions** led by Bishop Zubik to be inspired for the mission of the Church.

Meetings were held in each of the four regional vicariates in the diocese as part of the *On Mission for The Church Alive!* planning initiative.

The goal of On Mission is to invest more resources in **mission and ministry** to better share the **good news** and **bring more people to Jesus** through vibrant parishes and effective ministries.

After considering recommendations from the **On Mission Commission**, Bishop Zubik will consult with his advisory and leadership bodies. Next April, he will announce the **final parish groupings and assignments** for priests and deacons who serve in parishes, hospitals, nursing homes, schools and correctional institutions.

No parishes will merge or church buildings close at that time.

As priests and deacons begin parish assignments in the fall of 2018, pastors will create **new Mass schedules** for parishes. They also will develop **blueprints** to assist them in the implementation process, including estimated staffing needs, a process for combining parish councils, development of common ministry programs and a timeline for merging parishes.

Learn more at OnMissionChurchAlive.org.

Helping our neighbors in need

Hispanic people accounted for 56 percent of the U.S. population growth from 2000-12, and their presence also is being felt in our region.

The Census Bureau counted **35,730 Hispanic and Latinos** in southwestern Pennsylvania as of 2015, with two-thirds living in Allegheny County.

To reach out to this emerging group, a new Campaign grant will expand Hispanic and Latino ministry efforts in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, led by **Jorge Vela**, new diocesan coordinator of Hispanic ministry.

Efforts are already bearing fruit at **Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish** in Meadow Lands, Washington County. With the support of their pastor, **Father Carmen D'Amico**, volunteers are teaching English to Hispanic parishioners. Along with listening, speaking, reading and writing English, they're teaching language structure, culture and critical thinking skills.

Spanish-language Masses are celebrated there, as well as at **St. Catherine of Siena** and **St. Regis** in Pittsburgh, **Our Lady of Joy** in Plum and **St. Paul Parish** in Butler.



George Schmotzer, left, works with his student Jose at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish.

Bringing healing and peace

The number of **marriage annulment cases** in the diocese doubled last year to about 300, and there were more than 600 inquiries as divorced parishioners work to repair their relationship with the Church.

Two years ago Bishop Zubik eliminated all fees for those seeking an annulment in the diocese. Sacrificial gifts to *Our Campaign for The Church Alive!* enabled the costs to be waived.

Pope Francis has made 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. The Holy Father has streamlined the annulment process so that decisions may be reached in a timely manner.

"We are striving to help people return to the sacramental life," said **Father Bill Feeney**, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Washington. "The Church is here to render assistance and bring some peace to them."

For more information, contact the diocesan Tribunal office at **412-456-3033** or tribunal@diopitt.org.