

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

This is, perhaps, a good time to report on our progress in receiving pledges to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* capital campaign that officially began in January, 2016. The first pledges were received in late spring of 2016 which means that the end of this year will bring us to the 50% point of the five-year pledge period. However the latest report from the Archdiocese shows that we have already reached **50%** of our **parish** goal of a bit less than 1.2 million dollars – half of the total in less than half of the pledge term.

That result is a real testimony to both your generosity and your faithfulness in fulfilling your pledges. There are a few parishioners who have indicated that they will not be able to fulfill their pledges due to extraordinary and unexpected financial problems, but the vast majority of those who have pledged are moving forward with their donations, with a significant number going above and beyond what might be expected.

It's important to remember that, for now at least, these funds can only be used for the capital improvements outlined in our original case statement for this campaign, and three of those are either completed or near completion: the widened sidewalk and enhanced lighting between the parking lot and church, the new handicapped-accessible meeting space in the school and the completely renovated and handicapped-accessible school washrooms. Next up will be a new sound system in the church which hopefully will include a hearing loop for hearing-impaired parishioners as well as new flooring in the cry room/bride's room.

However, there are other needs and improvements which should be attended to; but we can't use TTWCI funds for projects not in the original case statement until we reach our mandated archdiocesan goal of \$765,000, and we are only \$150,000 short of that benchmark. It would be wonderful if we could get to that point in the next six months or so because that would enable us to begin to replenish our savings which are still virtually non-existent due to the expenses incurred in the school prior to its closing. Reaching the archdiocesan goal would also allow us to begin the process of replacing the energy-wasting light bulbs currently at use in the church with energy-efficient bulbs that have a high upfront cost but would bring considerable savings going forward. And we would also be able to replace the old and rickety risers in the choir loft which currently endanger the safety of our dedicated and generous choir members.

So, if you have made a pledge to *To Teach Who Christ Is* and are able to either add to your pledge or perhaps even complete it in the next six to nine months, that would be wonderful. And if you were unable to pledge back in 2016 but are able to either make a pledge now or give a one-time donation, please give Agatha a call in the rectory office. I continue to be grateful to all those who are so consistently generous in so many ways.

Fr. Bob