



Our Parish Campaign

To Strengthen Our Parish and Our Diocese

Together, We Make A Difference

As Catholics, we have a responsibility to meet the needs of our local parish and to collectively act to support those activities that benefit us all. *Witness to Hope* is the campaign being conducted in each of the 81 parishes in our diocese. It is our opportunity to address both immediate needs and long-term issues.

The \$65-million collective goal is designed to provide direct and indirect support to every parish in the diocese. The largest single element in the campaign is the funds to be spent directly by the parish. The benefit from the other elements include ensuring funding for future seminarians, caring for our senior priests, strengthening our religious education programs, expanding parish and social service ministries, and addressing current collective priorities of the diocese.

In the coming weeks, we will be sharing more information with you during Mass, in the bulletin, at receptions, and in information packets for each family.

As our parish moves forward, each of us are asked to do three things:

- **Listen and Learn.** Come to understand the needs of our parish and diocese in a very detailed way. See the impact of what the funds raised will do.
- **Reflect and Pray.** Consider what all will be accomplished and the importance of the Church in your life. As a family, seek God's guidance as to how you can best help. Ask questions and ensure your understanding during this period.
- **Decide and Act.** When you feel you have had your questions answered and determine how best you can assist, please make your pledge and celebrate with all our parish families and families throughout the diocese.

In the coming weeks, we will build on this information and look forward to an active dialogue with you. Thank you for your prayers, consideration, and interest in our Church.



What is the goal of the *Witness to Hope* campaign?

The \$65-million diocesan-wide *Witness to Hope* campaign will fund a diverse balance of critical pastoral and financial needs. Each parish will have its own goal and fund its own priority projects as it determines. Parishioners will be invited to pledge their faithful generosity over as many as five years.

Why is the diocese conducting the campaign at this point?

Witness to Hope is a continuation of Bishop Boyea's pastoral letter *Go Announce the Gospel of Jesus Christ*. This campaign will advance the ability of our parishes, as well as our diocese, to fulfill the shared mission given to us by Jesus. The impact of this generous support will be felt in parishes and throughout the diocese for years to come. This support will provide us financial backing to increase our evangelization efforts, provide a welcoming home for all who seek the faith, and ensure a continued sound financial base for future members of the faith to build upon.

Will funds for the *Witness to Hope* campaign reduce offertory support for the parish?

In presenting the campaign, it will be important to emphasize that all gifts to *Witness to Hope* should not reduce other giving commitments to the Church, but should be extraordinary generosity made freely and faithfully to meet the extraordinary challenges and opportunities presented through the campaign. Over the long term, this historic, unprecedented campaign will build the capacity of parishes to realize their mission potential.

Will we be conducting the Diocesan Support Appeal as well as *Witness to Hope*?

There will NOT be a Diocesan Support Appeal conducted in 2017.

How was the parish case established?

Each parish, through the leadership of its pastor and councils, determines what the parish share will fund. Every parish sets its own priorities to be funded. For some it may be repairs and critical maintenance, others will work to eliminate debt, still others will make capital purchases, or expand evangelization and other outreach ministries at the parish.

How long is the pledge period, and when will I receive my reminders?

Pledges can be made over as many as 5 years, and parishioners may choose the beginning month and choose whether to receive monthly, quarterly, or annual reminders. Each parishioner will also select when they wish to begin making their payments to best fit their personal financial situation.

How do I learn more?

There will be series of bulletin inserts to provide more information about the campaign. The parish will host a number of receptions where members can come listen, learn, and ask questions, each member will receive a packet of information. You may visit www.witnesstohope.net anytime to learn about the overall campaign, our parish effort, and learn more about what other parishes are doing.

