March 2016

The **INSIDER**

**WE ARE LIVING STONES**

This insider newsletter is intended to keep diocesan staff, pastors, priests (active and retired), deacons, parish staff, diocesan lay leaders and ministry heads informed. If you have any questions regarding the **We Are Living Stones** Campaign, please contact Michael Goodwin, Executive Director of the Campaign Staff, at 908-907-5767.

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**CAMPAIGN FACTS**

**Over $37 Million**
raised as of March 8th

We’ve received 210 clergy gifts amounting to $835,000

$2,217,000 distributed to the parishes as part of the parish share formula

Over 1,800 gifts or 14% of our pledges were made via credit card

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**WE ARE LIVING AND DIVERSE STONES**

By Jose De Jesus, Guidance In Giving Campaign Director

Diversity among our Faithful is one of the greatest gifts and assets of the Archdiocese of Newark. Masses are celebrated in nearly twenty languages every weekend. Working with such a diverse group of parishes during Block 1 and 2 of the **We Are Living Stones** Campaign offered its own challenges but many of these parishes enjoyed great success.

Among our parishes that minister in Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Croatian, Italian and Polish in Blocks 1 and 2, we are seeing a large volume of gifts to the campaign. One of the tenets of the **We Are Living Stones** Campaign is that we are asking for “Equal Sacrifice, Not Equal Gifts” from our families. Many families are making the largest gift they have ever made to our Catholic Church, and are seeing the blessings that come from those commitments. **Saint Catherine of Siena** in Hillside has now reached 101% of their overall goal, **Saint Francis de Sales** in Lodi (133%), **Saint Francis of Assisi** in Hackensack (120%), **Holy Redeemer** in West New York (88%), **Immaculate Heart of Mary** in Newark (172%), **Saint Anthony of Padua** in Union City (164%), **Blessed Sacrament/Saint Charles Borromeo** in Newark (111%), **Our Lady of Mount Carmel** in Newark (124%), **Our Lady of Sorrows** in Jersey City (101%), **Immaculate Heart of Mary/Saint Patrick** in Elizabeth (140%) and **Saint Columba** in Newark (142%).

In some cases success cannot be dictated by statistics alone. While they may not be mentioned here, every parish has its own share of challenges and nuances. We are thankful for the good faith efforts put forth by our pastors, clergy, parish staff, volunteers and parishioners at all levels of this historic campaign.

In the end, **We Are Living Stones** is about everyone joyfully bringing their gift to the Altar of God, regardless of language, economic status or ethnic heritage, as a sign of thanksgiving for all that we continue to receive. We know that God will not be outdone in generosity and every gift is appreciated and necessary for our success. Thank You!
Monsignor Bradley presents the We Are Living Stones campaign at Christ the King, Hillside

Msgr. Bradley, Director of the Ministry to Retired Priests, shares this poem at campaign receptions:

Isn’t it strange how princes and kings
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings
And common people like you and me
Are builders for eternity?

To each is given a bag of tools
A soul to save and a set of rules
And each must fashion ere life is flown
A stumbling block or a stepping-stone.

~R. Lee Sharpe

(from left to right) Reverend Edward P. Szpiech, Pastor, Archbishop Hebda, Reverend Miroslaw Kusibab, Associate, Reverend Piotr Haldas, S.D.S., Associate

Campaign receptions