

A CAMPAIGN PUBLICATION FROM THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

GROWING IN FAITH

ISSUE 10 | FALL 2015



Rooted in Faith Forward in Hope

Strengthening the Catholic Church in Northeast Ohio

*New Spiritual Home Rises
in the Heart of the City*



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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CAMPAIGN UPDATE

*\$2.5 Million Invested to Expand
St. Agnes + Our Lady of Fatima Parish*

Mary and Dennis

SHARE GOD'S GIFTS WITH OTHERS

When St. Bernadette parishioners Mary and Dennis Taljan talk about their gift to *Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope*, they speak about “our decision, our commitment and our response.” For the Taljan’s the decision to give comes from a place of gratitude. “We consider ourselves fortunate. We’ve traveled the world and throughout the U.S. We didn’t do anything to deserve this – our family and our situation. Those gifts have been given to us from God. When we look at what we’ve been handed, we have to ask, ‘what are we going to do with that?’” says Dennis.

Mary and Dennis have made a practice of giving to organizations that have a noticeable impact on the community and directly affect the quality of people’s lives. Dennis continues, “We need to make sure that people who have not been as fortunate as we are have the basics – whether that is healthcare or education, or access to spiritual opportunity. For *Rooted in Faith*,

we recognized early on that insuring that our core institutions would remain vibrant and healthy, and carry a spiritual message was worth supporting.”

Recently, Mary and Dennis paid in full on the *Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope* pledge they made in 2012. This, too, was a mindful response to the needs of others. Dennis explains, “There was no reason to wait when every dollar can be applied to do something tangible immediately. We

have been fortunate enough to see the disbursements coming back to our parish. And, we’ve seen the spark that *Rooted in Faith* has created; people are talking about the forward momentum of the diocese. I think that’s the substantive reward of putting the money in play in order to have the organization use it and use it well.”



CONGRATULATIONS!

Divine Word Parish

Holy Angels Parish

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

Our Lady of Victory Parish

Resurrection of Our Lord Parish

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish

St. Angela Merici Parish

St. Augustine Parish (Cleveland)

St. Basil the Great Parish

St. Bernard Parish

St. Christopher Parish

St. Colette Parish

St. Joan of Arc Parish

St. Julie Billiart Parish

St. Mary Parish (Hudson)

St. Patrick Parish (Bridge Ave.)

St. Patrick Parish (Thompson)

St. Rita Parish

St. Victor Parish

St. Vincent de Paul Parish (Akron)

Visitation of Mary Parish

THESE PARISHES ARE NOW RECEIVING AN INCREASED PARISH SHARE, HAVING MET THEIR ROOTED IN FAITH GOALS.

We Are A Family

ST. AGNES + OUR LADY OF FATIMA



When Anna Smith spoke with friends at St. Agnes + Our Lady of Fatima Parish about making a gift to *Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope*, she liked to remind them, “All of us have to do this. We are a family.” As the parish campaign director, Anna knew just how vital campaign funds would be to not only expanding the church’s worship area, but to growing the faithful. “If we don’t give back; if we don’t progress; we will never have the resources needed to grow our church and be more visible in the community,” said Anna.

Capuchin Franciscan Father Robert Marva, pastor at St. Agnes + Our Lady of Fatima Parish, also saw the importance of this \$2.5 million investment. “The project is a witness to the vitality and steadfast commitment of the church to this community, which has been historically challenged economically and where statistics and trends say this should not happen. The commitment of parishioners to this project represents a strong testament to enduring faith,” says Fr. Marva.

Thanks to the sacrifices of parish members and the generous support of those in the wider community, the church will double its worship area with an open floor plan and seating for 320 people. “People are enthusiastic about the building progress and are being as faithful as they can to pledges and parish obligations knowing the

difference they are making,” says Fr. Marva.

Anna, who travels from an eastern suburb to attend the church located in Cleveland’s Hough neighborhood across from League Park, has found a home in this diverse community with a focus on Africentric Catholic expression. “The first Sunday that my husband and I came to St. Agnes + Our Lady of Fatima people were so welcoming,” says Anna. Then, Fr. Marva called us that week to thank us for coming to church. I thought, I could get used to this.” And, she has!

Fr. Marva says the new church project embraces the inner-city Catholic history by including in its design and furnishing items from former churches that have served the African American Catholic Community: the cornerstone fashioned from that of St. Thomas Aquinas, the statue of St. Martin de Porres from St. Edward, the piano from St. Cecilia, the tabernacle from St. Agnes, the stone gable cross from St. Catherine, and the three bronze bells from Holy Trinity-St. Edward.

“Once the sanctuary is open and people see that it’s a whole new atmosphere, more people will want to come in and be part of this parish,” says Anna.

Fr. Marva and Anna invite you to participate in this historic opening by

Accountability and Transparency

The Catholic Community Foundation embraces the values of Accountability & Transparency as we serve our donors and carry out our mission to foster faith-based stewardship in the community for the spiritual, educational and charitable needs of all.

The *Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope* Oversight Committee, chaired by Ronn Richard, President of The Cleveland Foundation, meets semi-annually to review financial statements and ensure stewardship of your funds throughout the campaign.

We encourage you to visit www.catholiccommunity.org for updated financial information about the campaign, its distributions and other important campaign news.

joining them during Thanksgiving week as they recognize the many blessings God has bestowed on their parish.

Momentum Builds

Nov. 25 Church Dedication and Blessing by Bishop Lennon

Nov. 27 Open House for the community from 5- 7 p.m.

Nov. 28 Evening Prayer offered for the deceased of the parish at 6 p.m.

Nov. 29 Mass for the First Sunday of Advent at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
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THANK YOU

to the 19,660
parishioners across
our diocese who
have completed their
pledges and gifts to
the Campaign!

Help us be Good Stewards of Your Gifts! Would you prefer to receive this quarterly newsletter via email? You can choose to do so by sending an email to lcrcoran@catholiccommunity.org.

Luz Overcomes Adversity

TO BECOME A FIRST GENERATION GRADUATE

Luz Dominguez is the first person in her extended family to graduate from high school and the first to attend college, graduating from Cleveland Central Catholic and entering Ashland University this fall. Her Catholic education, made possible with diocesan tuition assistance, has had a life-changing impact on this bright young woman. It helped her to overcome a life of adversity that began when Luz was born to a single mother who came to the U.S. from Puerto Rico at age 14 and was pregnant with Luz at 17. Luz only met her father once, and never heard from him again.

In June, Luz capped off her Catholic education by attending Cleveland Central

Catholic's Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement. She had participated in three sports and nine organizations and clubs including the National Honor Society; fulfilling a promise that she had made to herself to try a new club and activity each year. Luz remarks, "There have been a lot of opportunities through Cleveland Central Catholic. I kind of found myself there. The school opened a lot of doors to me."

Because of the generosity of donors, *Rooted in Faith—Forward in Hope* is able to support more than 3,200 Catholic school students with tuition assistance awards that total more than \$2 million this year.



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