



ARCHDIOCESE of NEW YORK

Through Faith We Grow

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BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

(ISSUE 1, SPRING 2006)

Priests' Advisory Committee for the Bicentennial Campaign

Most Reverend Robert Brucato, D.D.
 Most Reverend Josu Iriondo, D.D.
 Most Reverend Dominick Lagonegro, D.D.
 Most Reverend Dennis Sullivan, D.D.
 Most Reverend Gerald Walsh, D.D.
 Reverend Monsignor Thomas Bergin
 Reverend Monsignor Gerardo Colacicco
 Reverend Monsignor Lawrence Connaughton
 Reverend Monsignor Donald Dwyer
 Reverend Monsignor James Dorney
 Reverend Monsignor John Ferry
 Reverend Monsignor Marc Filacchione
 Reverend Monsignor William Foley
 Reverend Monsignor Thomas Gilleece
 Reverend Monsignor Richard Guastella
 Reverend Monsignor Wallace Harris
 Reverend Monsignor Dennis Keane
 Reverend Monsignor Thomas Modugno
 Reverend Monsignor Kevin Nelan
 Reverend Monsignor John O'Keefe
 Reverend Monsignor Robert Ritchie
 Reverend Monsignor George Thompson
 Reverend Monsignor James Vaughey
 Reverend Monsignor Edward Weber
 Reverend William Cosgrove
 Reverend Jaime Duenas
 Reverend Francis Gasparik, OFM Cap.
 Reverend George Hommel
 Reverend John Kearney

Almost 200 years ago, the diocese of New York was established when the diocese of Baltimore was raised to an Archdiocese and New York made a separate diocese. Through faith we grew. By 1822, the fledgling diocese, run by one bishop and eight priests, consisted of two churches in Manhattan and four throughout New York State. With the influx of European Catholics in the mid-1800s—composed of large groups of Irish, French, Germans and Italians—our young community of faithful burgeoned. For these men, women and children who came to New York as immigrants looking for a better life, the Catholic Church was a place of comfort and familiarity. On July 19, 1850 the diocese was elevated to an Archdiocese, reflecting its growing importance as a Catholic community.

Today, the Archdiocese of New York celebrates a steadfast presence that has not wavered. As one of the largest, most diverse communities of faith in the country, the Catholic community in New York continues to grow and change, with parishes in the northern counties experiencing population booms. We are currently witnessing a new wave of Catholic immigrants

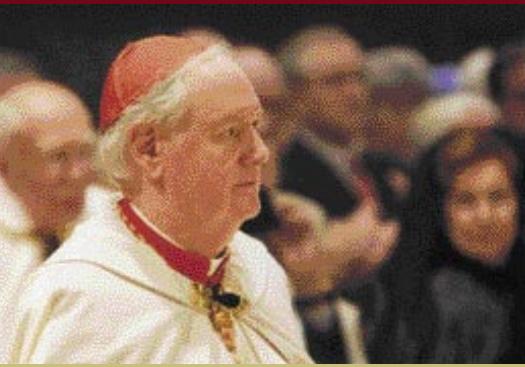
coming to New York, many of whom are Spanish speakers. Although two centuries have passed, our challenges remain the same—to meet the needs of the people we serve.

As we look to the future, this pivotal moment marks a time when, once again, we come together in the name of the Lord. Each parish of the Archdiocese will participate in the Bicentennial Campaign. As the largest fundraising effort in the history of the Archdiocese, this comprehensive campaign will allow us to enhance our programs and services in order to better meet the needs of our people, both now and well into the future.

This Bicentennial Campaign celebrates the remarkable 200-year history of the Catholic Church in New York and is a bold effort to strengthen each of our parishes and secure our future as an Archdiocese. It allows the faithful of today to put love into action by supporting the Church and her many ministries for the present and for years to come.

“So the Churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers...”

—Acts 16:5



A MESSAGE FROM HIS EMINENCE

Dear Friends,

As we prepare for our Bicentennial Anniversary, we prayerfully reflect upon the history of faith and service throughout the Archdiocese of New York. Our history mirrors the exciting story of New York itself. Over the past two hundred years, millions of men, women and children began their lives anew here in our community; and many of them found identity, support and solace in the parishes and institutions of the Archdiocese.

Today, we are expanding the splendid works of those who went before us, and as we look ahead our mandate is clear. We must strengthen our Catholic faith and traditions; we must extend the range of our services; and, we must find new resources to respond better to the ever-changing needs of the people who have been entrusted with our care.

In that regard, the Bicentennial Campaign is an historic fundraising effort that will allow us to strengthen the financial resources of all of the parishes of the Archdiocese of New York. Through parish-based efforts, we will raise critically needed

funds so that, over the years to come, we may fulfill with greater effectiveness the sacred mission the Lord has given us.

A word of thanks is in order to the pastors, campaign volunteers and parishioners of the parishes where campaigns have already been initiated. Your collective efforts have shown tremendous leadership and understanding of the needs of your parishes and of your peers. Please know that your hard work is much appreciated and will provide momentum to ensure a successful Bicentennial Campaign in the months ahead.

With my deepest gratitude for your support of this endeavor, which will impact our Archdiocese for many years to come, may I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Edward Cardinal Egan
Archbishop of New York

"We find ourselves at a critical juncture where transition and growth offer new opportunities. This campaign is a challenge we are embracing as an Archdiocese working together for the good of the individual parishes and the broader Catholic family."

MOST REVEREND GERALD T. WALSH
Vicar for Development
Pastor, Church of St. Elizabeth

PILOT PARISHES EXCEED GOAL!

The parish campaigns kicked off with a pilot phase last September. Subsequent parish campaigns will be conducted in one of five blocks that will run through June 2007. Funds raised through each of these parish campaigns will be separated into two elements: 80% allocated to address specific capital, reserve and programmatic needs of the parish and 20% allocated to a special fund dedicated to helping less fortunate parishes throughout the Archdiocese.

We are off to a great start! We are thrilled to report that our pilot parishes exceeded their cumulative goal of \$7.6 million. To date, these ten pilot parishes have raised a total of \$9.2 million and, although the pilot phase ended in December 2006, the

support continues to come in. We could not have been as successful without the guidance of the campaign's Priests' Advisory Committee (PAC), the tireless efforts of our committed pastors and parish priests, and the generosity of our parish families.

Our Block I parishes, which launched their campaigns in January 2006, along with the Block II parishes, which launched in April 2006, are building on the success of the pilot parishes. We look forward to reporting on their results in our Fall newsletter.

TRANSFIGURATION PARISH

Reverend Lucian Beltzner, O. Carm.

Located in Tarrytown, New York, Transfiguration Parish is a thriving community of faith with 1,100 families, and a school that boasts more than 250 students, grades Pre-K to 8. Since its founding in 1896, Transfiguration has played a vital role in the community.

When the Bicentennial Campaign was presented to the pastor, Father Beltzner, he immediately recognized it as the opportunity to initiate much-needed enhancements to the parish and school. While he initially felt that the goal of \$800,000 would be a challenge, he took it in stride and worked diligently with his campaign director, Mollie Roan, to develop a strong case for support.

With the help of his volunteer campaign committee, Mollie and the generosity of the entire parish family, Transfiguration surpassed its goal of \$800,000 by nearly \$95,000! The funds raised will enable Transfiguration to undertake critical improvements, such as: upgrading the heating systems for the school and the parish, installing a church elevator specifically for the elderly parishioners, and making some very necessary exterior repairs on the property. The success of the campaign will also enable the parish to replenish its reserves, which had been depleted to address recent emergency repairs to the school and church. Looking back, Father Beltzner beams with pride, "Working together, we have all helped to ensure that Transfiguration will continue to fulfill its mission in the years to come."



*Father Lucian W. Beltzner, O. Carm.,
Pastor, and Bill Krajieski, co-general
chair, celebrate the success of the
campaign at Transfiguration.*

*Not pictured: David Cartenuto,
co-general chair*

CHURCH OF SAINT CHARLES BORROMEEO

Reverend Monsignor Wallace A. Harris

When Monsignor Wallace Harris asked parishioner, Mr. Thom Bess, if he would head Saint Charles Borromeo's Bicentennial Campaign, Mr. Bess agreed with no hesitation. Today, Monsignor Harris, Mr. Bess and the entire campaign committee are justifiably proud. With a remarkable 70% participation rate, Saint Charles Borromeo's campaign has raised a tremendous \$650,000, exceeding their goal by \$150,000! "People are investing in a better future for our parish family," says Mr. Bess.

The success of the campaign will enable Saint Charles Borromeo to address the parish's pressing repair and restoration needs, including: installing an elevator in the church to ease the burden of its oldest parishioners as well as the handicapped; replacing the floor in the church hall; and, updating the air conditioning system.

This is a remarkable achievement, not only in terms of numbers, but also given the economic make-up of the parish. "I am humbled by the continuing goodness and support of our parishioners in meeting the needs of our growing family," says Monsignor Harris.

*Msgr. Wallace A. Harris, pastor,
and Thom Bess, general chairperson
of the campaign.*

*Not pictured are: Tony Evans, major
gift chair; Ronald and Beverly Riddick,
special gift co-chairs; and Victor
Franklin, general gift chair.*





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of New York
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OUR ARCHDIOCESE IS...

- One of the largest and most diverse in the country
- Spread across 10 counties, 4,900 square miles
- Home to more than 2,500,000 Catholics
- Guided by more than 1,500 priests and 3,900 religious
- Served by 7,500 catechists, parish directors and coordinators of religious education
- The largest Catholic school system in the country, educating nearly 110,000 students
- Keeping Catholic education affordable by subsidizing operations in our schools
- Offering athletic, cultural and spiritual programs to more than 25,000 youths
- Providing immigration legal assistance to 7,000 individuals
- Preventing eviction for 3,500 families through rental assistance
- Serving 4,000,000 meals annually to individuals and families through food pantries
- Forming our next generation of priests through a tuition-free environment at the Seminary
- Enhancing pastoral life through spiritual, educational and professional development of our priests and religious through every stage of life.