



ARCHDIOCESE of NEW YORK

Through Faith We Grow

Priests' Advisory Committee for the Bicentennial Campaign

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Most Reverend Josu Iriondo, D.D.

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Reverend George Hommel

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BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

(ISSUE 2, WINTER 2007)

Bicentennial Campaign nears \$100 million mark!

For almost two centuries, the Archdiocese of New York has been a constant source of hope, guidance and opportunity for the countless men, women and children who have come to our door seeking assistance. While we are proud of our accomplishments, we remain humbled by the sacred mission that the Lord has given us—to meet the ever-changing needs of the people who have been entrusted with our care.

April 8, 2008 will mark the Archdiocese of New York's 200th year of faith and service to the people of New York. As we prepare to celebrate this momentous occasion with a year-long series of celebrations, we are also undertaking the important responsibility of ensuring that our legacy is securely positioned so that future generations may likewise benefit and grow in faith.

With a vision of the role we want to play in the future vibrancy of the greater New York community, we embarked on the Archdiocese of New York Bicentennial Campaign, a bold effort to strengthen our parishes and secure our future as an Archdiocese. Each parish of the Archdiocese will be participating in the Bicentennial Campaign to raise critical funds for parish needs and to support a special fund to assist needy parishes. With approximately

forty percent of the Archdiocesan parishes participating to date, the Bicentennial Parish Campaign has raised \$60 million! The entire Archdiocesan parish family will have participated in the Bicentennial Campaign by the end of 2007.

In addition, His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Egan, is spearheading a Leadership Gifts Campaign that will establish long-term support for Catholic Education, Catholic Charities, Saint Joseph's Seminary and the continual care of our priests and religious. We are thrilled to share with you that between the Parish Campaign and the Leadership Gifts effort, we have secured more than \$90 million for the Bicentennial Campaign! Indeed, the success of this campaign, historic in its breadth and magnitude, will help to build a strong foundation for the future of our Church.

Once again we are gratified by the same kind of generosity and spirit of sacrifice that filled the hearts of the men and women who have supported the Catholic Church of New York throughout our 200-year history. We have always strived faithfully to serve our people, but it is with your unwavering dedication that we will fulfill our mission—to meet the needs of the people we serve.

BICENTENNIAL PARISH CAMPAIGN

Pilots, Block 1 and Block 2 Exceed Goal!

Over the past fifteen months, approximately forty percent of the Archdiocesan parishes have either conducted or are in the midst of completing their Bicentennial Campaign, and we are thrilled to report that the campaign is doing extremely well. The ten pilot parishes, along with the seventy-one parishes that conducted their campaigns in Blocks I and II, have exceeded their total cumulative goal of \$40.4 million, raising \$43 million in total to date. Block III is close to 90% of its goal and is expected to hit goal shortly. Block IV, with eighty-two parishes participating, launched on January 1st and is building on the success of the first three blocks.

This year, we will be conducting the final phases of the Bicentennial Campaign. We look forward to working with each of the parishes to ensure a successful campaign. The success of this comprehensive campaign, the largest fundraising effort in the history of the Archdiocese, 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.



CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST, YONKERS

Monsignor Christopher Maloney

Located just down the road from Saint Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, Saint John the Baptist is a thriving parish community composed of mostly working-class Italian and Irish families. Additionally, the parish has also been blessed with a highly respected elementary school. Since its founding in 1903, Saint John the Baptist has served as an anchor in the community, providing a sacred place where people pray and worship, receive the sacraments, teach the faith to their children and build a Christian community.

Monsignor Maloney and his two campaign co-chairs, Delinan Federico and Richard Brand, worked tirelessly to identify the parish's most pressing needs and then secure the \$850,000 funds needed to address them. They also felt

strongly about contributing to the Fund for Needy Parishes.

At the end of their campaign, Saint John the Baptist exceeded its goal with more than \$880,000 in pledges. In addition to helping out the less fortunate parishes in the Archdiocese, the funds raised will enable the parish to undertake specific physical enhancements to their church and school, such as better lighting to ensure the safety of their parishioners, the addition of a computer room/science lab in the school, and the addition of a parish meeting room.

"It was ambitious and a lot of work but definitely worthwhile, enabling us to work together for the good of both our parish and the broader Catholic family," said Monsignor Maloney.

Reverend Monsignor J. Christopher Maloney, Pastor, and Mrs. Delina Federico, Co-Chair of the Parish Campaign.

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, CHINATOWN

Reverend Raymond Nobiletti, MM

Called the “Church of Immigrants,” Transfiguration has a 200-year history of welcoming newcomers to the city of New York, from the Irish to the Italians, and now the Chinese. Today, the Church of the Transfiguration is the largest Chinese Catholic Parish in the United States. Located in the heart of Chinatown, Transfiguration’s parishioners speak three languages—English, Cantonese and Mandarin. The parish has almost 1,000 registered families and its three schools enroll more than 1,200 students.

To address the parish needs, consisting primarily of improvements to the aging church and Parish

Center, a minimum of \$300,000 was required. But, setting a higher standard of Christian stewardship, the campaign went on to raise \$415,000, more than \$100,000 over goal. The pastor, Father Nobiletti, attributes the great success to the generosity of his parishioners as well as the importance of the church to this immigrant parish community.

“Think positive, be personable, and follow up! Personal visits, too, were a critical factor in our campaign,” advised Fr. Nobiletti.



*Reverend Raymond Nobiletti, Pastor,
and Paulina Cheng-Hardatt, General
Chairperson of the Campaign.*

CHURCH OF SAINT ANTHONY, BRONX

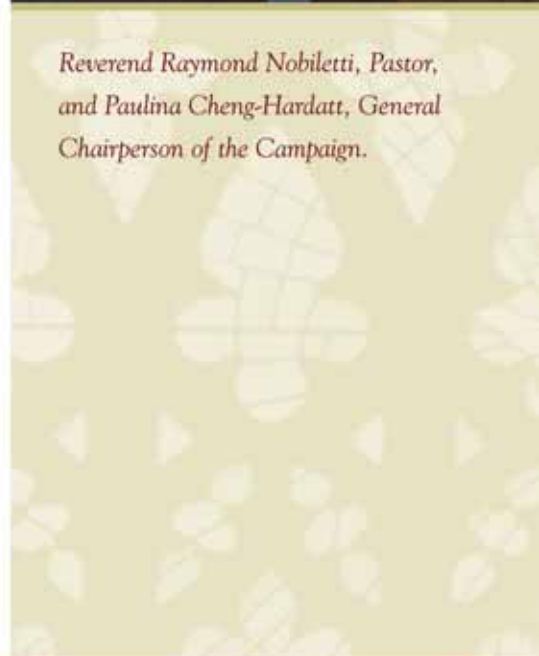
Reverend Joseph Kelly

In 1908, the Church of Saint Anthony was established in an Italian and Irish neighborhood of the Bronx. Today, the church is predominantly Hispanic. When first approached with the campaign goal of \$210,000, Father Joseph Kelly felt it was completely unattainable. However, Father Kelly’s doubts soon diminished after his first solicitation resulted in a pledge of \$15,000. Saint Anthony’s went on to double their campaign goal, proving that with a devoted parish family, a successful campaign can be run regardless of the community’s financial situation.

The campaign’s success was also due, in part, to a dedicated leader in Carmen Rivera, who headed

a four-person committee. Other volunteers also pitched in, making phone calls or organizing wine and cheese receptions to educate the parish family about Saint Anthony’s needs and the crucial role that the parish plays in the community.

With the funds raised, Saint Anthony’s will be able to address its most pressing needs, including: a new boiler, new pews, new kneeler cushions and a new ceiling. And because they exceeded their goal, they will also be able to install new roofs for the rectory and convent, restore the church’s stained glass windows and complete an electrical overhaul of the church.



Reverend Joseph Kelly, Pastor.





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STRENGTHENING OUR PARISHES

The Bicentennial Fund for Needy Parishes

Each year, many of our parishes and schools turn to the Archdiocese for assistance in order to continue their day-to-day operations. Over the years, costs have continually risen and many parishes, especially those that bear the important responsibility of a parish school, have faced financial challenges.

Through the Inter-Parish Finance (IPF) Board and the Chancery Office, and with financial oversight by the Archdiocesan Finance Council, the Archdiocese provides support to these needy parishes. Through IPF, funds raised through the Cardinal's Annual Appeal and the Cathedralicum are distributed back to these parishes to pay for their needs. However, there is a shortfall between the funds

the Archdiocese receives from parishes and the amount distributed back to needy parishes.

In 2005–2006 alone, \$25.8 million was distributed to help 85 parishes and 95 schools address their financial obligations. Recognizing that these growing costs cannot continue to be supported solely through the Cardinal's Appeal and the Cathedralicum, the *Bicentennial Fund for Needy Parishes* presents a unique opportunity for each parish to support their neighbors in need. Twenty percent of funds raised through individual parish campaigns will be allocated toward this dedicated fund helping to benefit less fortunate parishes throughout the Archdiocese.