



# Living Our Call. Living Our Faith.

Living Our Mission Campaign Newsletter  
Spring 2016

“It was not you who chose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain...” John 15:16



## Advancing Our Shared Mission:

### *Diocesan Distance Learning Center*

"Wonderful way to present a program if you can't attend," commented a participant attending the Richmond Diocese Sullivan Conference 2015, *When to Lead and When to Manage*. In Abingdon, 298 miles from the Pastoral Center, 15 southwest parish leaders gathered at Jubilee House to learn via teleconference from Dr. Elaine Kiziah, Ph.D. This FIRST pilot use of the Diocesan Distance Learning technology equipment, bridging the miles between parishes, was well received: "I did feel included in the larger group, which helped us to feel more connected with the Diocese."

Increased access to adult education and parish leader training, one of the goals of the Distance Learning Initiative, was achieved in this pilot effort: "This live streaming has come at the right time. Good to use it for future learning programs." With the generosity of our Catholic parishes contributing to the Living Our Mission campaign, the Diocesan Distance Learning project continues to develop remote access in other areas of our Diocese. Connecting our 24 diocesan Catholic schools is also a priority, making possible the expansion of their course opportunities via a blended platform that leverages online learning.

Eric Sund, Director for the Office of Information Technology, is confident that technology will bring together hearts of faith and learning across our 33,000 square miles, including the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

*Emily Filippi, Director of Christian Formation, Office of Catholic Education, and DDLC Co-Cordinator with Eric Sund*



## Campaign Progress

# Living Our Mission Campaign Soars Above \$98 Million

Thanks to the last wave of parishes entering the *Living Our Mission* campaign, the total amount of gifts and pledges is \$98,206,692. This impressive total is 99% of the campaign's final goal of \$98,794,000. Parishes are enjoying their quarterly distribution checks from the money collected (Immaculate Conception in Hampton, VA is featured on page 2). During the week of May 13, a total of \$2,437,987.65 was mailed in parish share checks, bringing the total to date returned to parishes to \$16,868,598.42. Thank you to everyone who has invested, and continues to invest, their time, gifts, and prayers in the success of this extraordinary endeavor.

[www.livingourmission.org](http://www.livingourmission.org)



For up to date information on the *Living Our Mission* campaign, individual parish information and progress reports, to make a donation and follow our news, please visit our website at [www.livingourmission.org](http://www.livingourmission.org).

***"The Living Our Mission Capital Campaign and the generous support of the parish enabled St. Joseph Parish to proceed with plans to rebuild our parish hall. We are grateful for the support provided and are looking forward to being able to move into our new facilities in the new year."***

~Rev. Brian W. Capuano, Pastor, Saint Joseph, Petersburg, VA



In the fall of 2014, Immaculate Conception in Hampton became one of the first parishes in the Diocese to conduct the *Living Our Mission* campaign. Under the leadership of Rev. Sean Prince, the parish set out to accomplish an important goal through the campaign in renovating the parish kitchen. Their kitchen is not just an area of the parish where food is prepared;



it is a cornerstone for many service and fellowship ministries. Each week, parishioners prepare food in the kitchen for their Sunday Suppers to provide a hot meal to those in need. On a monthly basis, the Young-At-Heart ministry gathers the elderly and disabled in the community for a meal, prayer and bingo. Expanded kitchen facilities will allow these and other parish ministries to grow. The *Living Our Mission* campaign was a major success at Immaculate Conception with the parish raising over \$710,000. Because the parish exceeded its goal, it was able to experience a complete redesign and reconfiguration of the kitchen with more space to prepare and serve food with commercial upgrades such as a dishwasher, additional ovens and a larger stove. *(Click here for a walk through of the kitchen.)*



*"Though we, as Catholic Christians in Virginia, trust in God's providence at all times, it doesn't mean we don't plan and prepare for the future. The Living Our Mission campaign is our*

*collective planning and preparing for the future of the Church of Richmond."*

*~Rev. Kevin L. Segerblom, Pastor of Saint Anne, Bristol, Saint Bernard, Gate City, and Saint Patrick, Dungannon, VA*



*Rev. Alistair McKay, C.Ss.R., will long be remembered for his love and his passion for his work.*

Using a combination of his dry humor and practical approach to ministry, Rev. Alistair McKay, C.Ss.R., led Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Salem in exceeding the parish campaign goal. Throughout the *Living Our Mission* campaign, he worked the phones, wrote emails, and maintained a list of people he wanted to meet with after Mass.

He set the tone early in the campaign. As some of the leadership calls were completed and the progress was updated on the graph in the Narthex, someone mentioned, "Look how much we have raised from so few." Rev. McKay took that as an opportunity to focus his message the next week on, "Imagine what is possible if everyone steps forward."

Word quickly spread in the parish that if you promised Father you would get back to him, and that date came and went, you would quickly get a personal call asking if all was fine and when could he stop by about the campaign. When people tested his resolve for the campaign, about its importance to the parish or him as a member of a religious order, he spoke quietly and clearly about this being more important than any single parish or diocese. He believed that this is something every Catholic must do in keeping our Catholic

church strong and ready for the next generation. As news of his cancer and need for aggressive treatment became public, Rev. McKay never stopped. First, he tried to have the doctors understand his treatments needed to work around his celebration of Mass. Then, as members approached him asking, "What can I do for you, Father?" his standard answer was, "You can make a gift to the *Living Our Mission* campaign. I want this done before I leave."



*In his last months, OLPH was able to celebrate Rev. McKay's birthday, Easter, the campaign success, and his service.*

Even as he needed rides to treatments, Rev. McKay always asked the staff to see the list of volunteer drivers. He would review and say, "Have this person drive me. I need to talk to them about their gift."

In his last months, the community was able to celebrate Rev. McKay's birthday, Easter, the campaign success, and his service. "Jesus loves you," Rev. McKay would often quip as someone left Mass, followed by, "but I'm his favorite." He will long be remembered for his love and his passion for his work at OLPH and the other parishes he served.