



## TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

*A Campaign for Catholic Education  
and Faith Formation*



ST. PATRICIA ROMAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER

*Campaign Update*

## ONE FAMILY'S STORY

My name is Melissa Larson. My husband, Joseph, and I have been parishioners at St. Patricia since 2006 when we moved to Willow Springs. We have four children: Samantha 12, Alexandra 9, Nicholas 6, and Zachary 6. Through the years, my family has had the opportunity to participate in various aspects of the parish.

Both my husband and I attended parochial schools while growing up. I, myself, was not raised Catholic, but I have always had strong faith in God. When Samantha began school, I was exposed more to the Catholic faith. After much reflection, I decided to convert and enrolled in the RCIA program. My faith has only grown stronger over the years. I have never regretted my decision.

All four of our children now attend St. Patricia School. Having them grow up in a strong faith environment is very important to us. Samantha is now an altar server, and all of the children participate on parish sports teams. Joe has volunteered as a soccer coach, and I have been a room mom, volleyball coach and member of the St. Patricia School Board.

When first approached about leading a committee for the **To Teach Who Christ Is** Campaign, I was hesitant given my family's busy schedules. However, it felt like the right thing to do. As I have learned more about the campaign, I am glad that I agreed to participate. The majority of money raised, 60%, will come back for use in the parish. In addition, some of the remaining money donated has the possibility to come back through scholarships to attend St. Patricia School or through money to the religious education program.

My family will be making a commitment to the campaign. In the coming weeks, we will be deciding as a family how much we will be contributing. Though this will be a commitment above our monthly school tuition and weekly Sunday contributions, sacrifices are those things that are worth making. We feel that the campaign's impact in keeping St. Patricia the parish of choice for our family not only justifies the additional sacrifice, but also reinforces those ideals that are taught at St. Patricia. We hope that you too will recognize the importance this campaign has in positioning St. Patricia for the future.

## Q&A

### WHAT IS A COMMITMENT CARD AND WHY USE IT?

First, our campaign commitment card is a simple statement of intent, not a contract. Knowledge of what dollar amounts to expect is critical to plan wisely for our future.

### HOW MUCH SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING MY GIFT?

We ask each household to prayerfully answer this question: What is God calling me to do for our Church through the To Teach who Christ Is Campaign?

### IF NECESSARY, MAY I CHANGE MY COMMITMENT?

Of course. Should your circumstances change and you need to alter your giving plan, please contact our parish office.

### WHEN DO I RECEIVE MY CARD?

All cards are distributed and returned during Commitment Weekend on April 5th & 6th 2014. If you are unable to attend, you will receive your commitment card in the mail with instructions on how to complete and return it.

## GUIDELINES FOR GIVING

**GIVE FIRST.** I will make the first use of my income an act of faithfulness to a loving Lord.

**GIVE PROPORTIONATELY.** I will give happily in accordance with the resources I have been given and compare my gift to no others.

**GIVE GENEROUSLY.** I will listen as scripture teaches me to give generously just as God has bestowed wonderful gifts upon me.

**GIVE QUIETLY.** I will give without fanfare. God sees, and that is all that matters. I will never seek to draw attention, but I will be prepared to explain why I give.

**GIVE SACRIFICIALLY.** I will practice giving in a way that expresses my love of God. I will recognize that both God and I know when a gift comes from my heart.

**GIVE PERSONALLY.** I will invest myself, my time, and my talent. I will allow each member of my family the same opportunity for personal involvement.

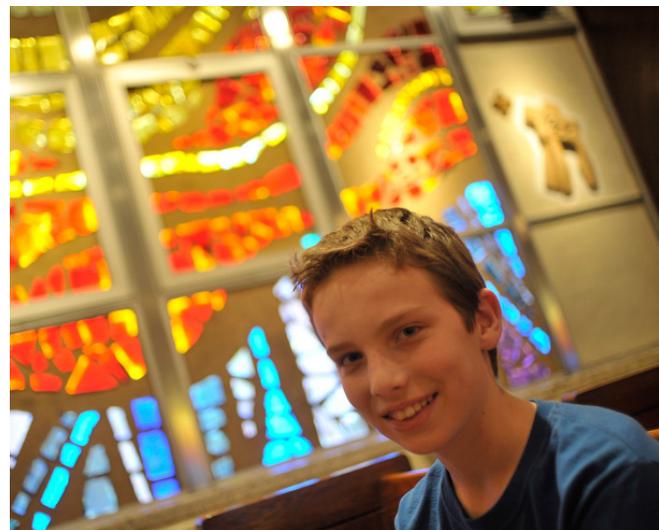
**GIVE GRATEFULLY.** I will bring to mind God's gifts and ways that money can matter for eternity.

**GIVE FREELY.** I will attach no strings or expectations to my gift. I will seek nothing—particularly public recognition—in return.

**GIVE CHEERFULLY.** I know from scripture that God delights in and loves a cheerful giver.

**GIVE EXPECTANTLY.** I will look for ways to share my gifts, bear another's burden, or contribute my resources to God.

**GIVE WORSHIPFULLY.** I will acknowledge that God is the author of giving. I will recall that God has given me everything that I possess, including my very life. I especially



remember that God gave all humanity His very own son so that we might experience eternal life.

**GIVE FAITHFULLY.** I will cultivate the discipline of faithfulness regardless of how I feel at the time.

No funds donated to the **To Teach Who Christ Is** Campaign have been or will be used to defray expenses related to misconduct issues.

## THE JOURNEY OF STEWARDSHIP

Living our faith to the fullest each and every day is the challenge posed to each of us at St. Patricia. By participating in **To Teach Who Christ Is**, we take one more step on our journeys towards living as good and faithful stewards. When we accept with gratitude the gifts our God has given us, and return them to Him with increase by sharing with others, we answer the call each of us received at our baptism to live as His disciples.

This campaign helps us recognize that all of life is a gift from God who asks us to share what we have been given for the benefit of all. Living true stewardship is not a one-time contribution, but rather a profound way to explore and deepen our understanding of the gift of giving. Please join us in prayer that the **To Teach Who Christ Is** Campaign will accomplish what it is meant to do: to demonstrate our confidence in our Church, our schools and in the values of Catholic education and life-long faith formation. Please join us as we come together as Catholics to support this important endeavor.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MARCH 8TH & 9TH 2014**  
FIRST INFORMATION WEEKEND  
"To Teach Who Christ Is" Overview

**MARCH 22ND & 23RD 2014**  
INSPIRATIONAL WEEKEND I  
"What is Stewardship?" Poster Festival

**MARCH 29TH & 30TH 2014**  
INSPIRATIONAL WEEKEND II  
"What is Stewardship?" Reflections

**APRIL 5TH & 6TH 2014**  
COMMITMENT WEEKEND  
St. Patricia Parish-Wide Event

**APRIL 26TH & 27TH 2014**  
CELEBRATION WEEKEND  
Hospitality After All Masses

