

## Campus campaigns provide opportunities to learn and grow



Among the 58 parishes participating in Wave 1 of *Encountering Christ* are three campus ministries, which will rely on the generosity and enthusiasm of both students and community members to meet their campaign goals.

“Sometimes, talking about money can be challenging with students but we see it as a way to educate them about an important aspect of their stewardship and also help them be appreciative of how much people sacrifice so that they are provided for spiritually,” said Father Daniel Liu, director of St. Peter Catholic Student Center at Baylor University in Waco.

A small resident community of less than a hundred families will help bolster the *Encountering Christ* campaign at the University Catholic Center of the University of Texas at Austin, which plans to use its share of campaign funds to improve its music ministry. “We count on the generosity of that non-student resident community, as we do all of the time, and trust that they will see the importance of supporting the ministries of the whole Diocese of Austin and also knowing that this is going to be a very significant benefit to campus ministry,” said Paulist Father Larry Rice, director.

Students will be asked for one-time gifts during the campaign’s general phase and will be able to donate via the Venmo app, which they use for offertory contributions, Father Rice said.

Our Lady of Wisdom University Parish, which serves Texas State University in San Marcos, is the only one of these three campus ministries designated as a parish and plans to direct its *Encountering Christ* funds to facility needs, including a new sound system. “The campaign gives us an opportunity to build relationships with people within the community and to stretch those relationships to people who are not yet involved in the community who would like to be part of our mission, part of what we’re doing at Our Lady of Wisdom,” said Father Craig DeYoung, pastor.

Although St. Peter Catholic Student Center will use campaign funds to beautify the center’s sanctuary as well as its Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) evangelization and outreach program, Father Liu is most heartened that a portion of the diocesan campaign will benefit campus ministry programs — “one of the most fruitful areas of ministry we have,” he said.