

NOTE: JBCenter is correct

Headline: Over goal! Pilot Phase sees success

The Pilot Phase of *Encountering Christ* has raised 116 percent of its \$2.2 million goal — thanks to the dedication and generosity of pastors, volunteers and parishioners.

Bishop Joe Vásquez asked seven parishes to launch the capital and endowment campaign in January: Our Lady of Guadalupe in Taylor, Sacred Heart in Rockne, St. Francis of Assisi in Franklin, St. Mary in Bremond, St. Mary of the Assumption in String Prairie, St. Mary of the Assumption in Lockhart and St. Mary in Temple. All parishes will now participate in three remaining parish waves starting in July and then January and July 2019.

At Our Lady of Guadalupe, “the community is eager to help when they know there’s need,” said Father Jairo Sandoval-Pliego, pastor. “We emphasize the importance of the bishop. They know that when the bishop asks for something, it’s not for him, it’s to better the community.”

The parish will direct its share of campaign funds to reduce debt incurred from constructing the JBCenter.

Meeting Bishop Vásquez’ vision for the campaign required Father Sandoval-Pliego to step outside of his comfort zone and ask parishioners to invest in the campaign, but he found inspiration in the campaign theme.

“It wasn’t only about getting them to commit to give to us, but about encountering the Christ that lives within us, that suffers within us when we suffer, that rejoices when we are happy and doing the right thing,” Father Sandoval-Pliego said. “It was just a beautiful experience for me to go about encountering the Christ in each person in this parish.”

Parishioners at St. Mary in Bremond were excited to raise funds for repairs to the rectory and parish hall and to support the diocesan case, said Dena Yezak, a member of the Campaign Executive Committee and parish staff. They were especially motivated by their pastor, Missionaries of Faith Father Celso Yu who is “full of life and can explain very well what needs to be done” Yezak said.

She admits that at first, the goal — which they’re now at 157 percent of — seemed unreachable. “When we said \$195,000, I said, ‘Well, they’ll never make that.’ But look what we’ve done.”