

Campaign Wave 1 parishes exceed goal



Father Bernard Hung and his campaign team at St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Caldwell celebrate their Encountering Christ success.

The 56 small and rural parishes in Wave 1 of *Encountering Christ* have now raised 104 percent of their collective goal of \$10.1 million, thanks to 4,260 gifts.

“We wanted to create a parish wave where our team could work solely with our smaller parish communities and provide them with specific, professional attention to address their local needs today and in the future,” said Scott Whitaker, director of stewardship and development.

“I’m thankful for and proud of the parishioners who have embraced *Encountering Christ*,” he added. “The goal of this campaign is to strengthen our diocese and our parishes, and through the generosity of so many, we’re achieving exactly that.”

Thanks to the success of Wave 1 and the Pilot Parishes, as well as leadership gifts received personally by Bishop Joe Vásquez, more than \$37 million has now been raised toward the campaign’s overall goal of \$85 million.

Pilot and Wave 1 parishes are currently set to receive \$5.3 million from *Encountering Christ* — 41 percent of the total, thanks to so many parishes exceeding their goals and receiving 70 percent of all gifts received over goal. Parishes are directing these funds to a variety of local needs, ministries, programs and facility repairs, maintenance and

upgrades. (To review details about parishes' campaigns and local needs, please visit encounteringchristcampaign.org/wave.)

Encountering Christ campaign staff are working with Wave 2 and Wave 3 parishes during 2019. Wave 2 will take place January through June; Wave 3, July through December. The 60 remaining parishes are significantly larger than those in Wave 1 and have collective goals totaling more than \$60 million.

Wave 2 pastors and their recruited campaign chairpersons began preparing for the campaign in September. They will involve new volunteers in February and March before publicly launching their efforts during a Kickoff Weekend on March 9 and 10. Wave 3, the final phase of the campaign, will begin this summer.