

Wave 2 parishioners ‘give with joy’



Father Tom Reitmeyer meets with parish leaders about St. John Vianney's *Encountering Christ* campaign.

Wave 2 pastors are finding their parishioners are embracing the opportunity to support the needs of the diocese and their parishes through *Encountering Christ*.

“There’s a strong faith here, and they understand discipleship giving, that all of us play a part in this local church,” said Father Tom Reitmeyer, pastor of St. John Vianney Parish in Round Rock.

Campaign materials illustrate how parishioners benefit from the shared ministries of the diocese, he said. “There’s really no separation between the two. It’s all the work of the local church, and their generosity and their response to the campaign shows that.”

St. John Vianney has raised 87 percent of its goal and will use its share of funds from *Encountering Christ* to make critical repairs to the church roof, to replace lighting in the worship space and to create a fund for future facility projects.

The 28 parishes participating in Wave 2 have a collective goal of \$24.4 million and have currently raised more than \$9.9 million. The majority of Wave 2 parishes, like St. John Vianney, plan to direct campaign funds to facility repairs and improvements that will allow them to better serve parishioners’ spiritual needs. Many also plan to bolster parish ministries and programs.

Through *Encountering Christ*, Father Victor Mayorga has witnessed a degree of generosity at his parish, Santa Teresa Parish in Bryan, which makes him confident of meeting future infrastructure needs at the parish. “They simply want to share how much, or how little, they have,” he said. “A generous community is a blessed and prosperous community.”

Santa Teresa has raised 108 percent of its goal. “They give with joy,” he added.

Because of the campaign, Santa Teresa will provide additional space for its religious education program, which has seen an increased number of students, as well as make repairs to the rectory and repave the parking lot.

Regardless of their situation, parishioners have equally been eager to sacrifice to help both the diocese and the parish meet the campaign goal, according to Father Mayorga. “A dollar that is shared is a dollar that not only helps us but other service projects throughout the diocese,” he said. “It helps us to be and feel like part of the body of Christ.”