

PASTOR'S COLUMN

“Our Journey Into The Future...Together”

Our Capital Campaign is now three months old and we have achieved great success. Over 50% of our Parish Households have responded and over 46% have made pledges. We have raised \$3.57 million and with money “on hand” at the Diocese before the Campaign began, we now stand at \$4.77 million.

We have come a long way in a short time. We have already achieved results of which many people were, at the beginning, very skeptical.

We chose not to retain an outside fund-raising company. The Campaign is being run “in house” which, thanks to a very talented and dedicated staff, is saving the Parish tens of thousands of dollars.

“Our Journey Into The Future...Together” is extremely informative and positive as it challenges all of us to help in the buildout of our Parish Campus with the Church/Sanctuary being the next building to be built.

On the last weekend of January, the Parish Leadership gave a Parish Update on the Campaign before all Masses. As Randy Reznicek, the Development Council Chairperson said then, “We will build our Church. The matter at hand is whether it will be built sooner, or if it will be built later. With the cooperation of all Parishioners, it will be sooner rather than later.”

The Parish Leadership and I have made a commitment that we will not approach the Diocese to begin discussions and negotiations to procure a Diocesan Loan until all Parish Households have responded to the Campaign.

We realize that everyone’s circumstances are different. We are seeking equal sacrifice, not equal gift. Also in a few situations, it may be that one cannot make a pledge at this time, but will simply continue to support the operating budget of the Parish.

Whatever the circumstances, I believe it is extremely important that every household respond to the Campaign. Knowing that the entire Parish is, in some way, a part of this Capital Campaign, will greatly provide the necessary confidence and support to Parish Leadership as we approach Diocesan Leadership.

Only then, with a great sense of confidence and honesty, can I say to Bishop Brom, “This is the present commitment ability of the Church of St. Thomas More. This is what we are financially able to do at this time. With this sacrificial commitment, how will the Diocese be able to assist us?”

A key word in the name of our Capital Campaign is the word “together.” Our Church/Sanctuary and other buildings will be used, not by some of us, but by all of us, all 1,097 Households. We all have a responsibility to support this Campaign in whatever way we are able. We must be united, and we must move into the future together.

If you have not yet responded to the Campaign, please do so in this month of February. Make a commitment to respond to this Campaign. Let us know what kind of financial assistance you will be able to provide. All pledges/gifts of any size will be welcomed. All responses, one way or another (in person, in writing, email or telephone), will be welcomed. Most important is the willingness to respond, to help create a sense in our Parish that is visible to Bishop Brom that we are together, united, and willing to sacrifice on behalf of our Faith Family.

We will build a Church sooner or later. With everyone taking seriously their responsibilities to this Faith Community, it will be sooner than later.

For all Parish Households who have already responded and have set the example for others, thank you! Know that your sacrifice is very much appreciated.

You are a grateful people. You are a generous people. You are a faith-filled people. I know that you will respond in the manner necessary to help us, as a Parish, build the necessary buildings so that we may faithfully continue the mission and ministry of Jesus.