



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

Commitment to Community - Campus Improvement Campaign

spiritual | sacramental | charitable | educational

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is a capital campaign?** A capital campaign is a specific effort to raise new money for growth initiatives, new infrastructure and major programs associated with our mission. A campaign gift is different from an annual fund or other regular giving in that an organization asks for or solicits a significant pledge of support.
- 2. What is the campaign's fundraising goal?** The goal is to raise \$4.5 million. The total project will cost \$6.2 million; \$1.7 million was already raised in the HOPE campaign. As presented at the numerous parish neighborhood meetings held last fall, the project focuses not only on addressing the urgent needs to preserve the integrity of campus buildings and stop the decay that has taken place over the years, but also to reconfigure existing space and add new space. This will include, among others, adding multipurpose rooms and gathering spaces; bringing the parish and school offices together; addressing school and church structural and functional issues; redoing and adding restrooms; installing an elevator; razing the rectory; adding a new, single-level Adoration Chapel; and constructing another parking lot across the street. Members of the parish have wholeheartedly and enthusiastically endorsed this project.
- 3. How will this benefit the community?** By providing this **Commitment the Community**, we can continue our rich Catholic traditions; extend our services to offer additional ministries; **help even more people**; and provide a more adequate environment for parishioners to celebrate weddings, funerals and other significant gatherings.
- 4. How does a gift to the campaign differ from regular contributions?** It is a special pledge or financial commitment made above and beyond one's ongoing support for operating expenses. The funds are used specifically for new capital projects as identified in the plan as approved by parish leadership. It is essential that we understand that day-to-day operating costs are different from capital improvement costs, in the same way our ordinary/personal income and expenses are in a different category than our savings and other assets. Many of us will fund the Commitment to Community Capital campaign contributions from savings, other investments, possibly even sacrificing a vacation or new car payment; whereas our offertory contributions is one of our ongoing expenses, not unlike our utilities and groceries. It is essential that both are in good shape and sustainable. It is very interesting to know that in most churches, annual giving actually increases after the end of a successful capital campaign. People are buoyed by the success of a campaign; the improved and expanded facilities to make growth possible and activities (weddings, funerals, etc) are not limited to inadequate facilities. We have the opportunity to make a prudent and reasonable "leap of faith" with the **Commitment to Community** campaign.
- 5. How do I make a gift to the St. Joseph Commitment to Community Campaign?** You can make an online pledge, print the pledge form and submit it in the collection basket or to the parish office, or contact the parish office directly, 419/893-4848.
- 6. Is it possible to have my gift matched?** Yes, if your employer has a matching gift program. Some employers will only match school gifts. We can accommodate that and earmark your donation for the school. Check with your HR office.
- 7. How should we decide how much to give?** This is a highly individual decision, but we ask only that you consider what your most generous gift might possibly be. This could likely be the single largest donation most of us have ever made, and will be a bit intimidating yet highly rewarding. It also reduces the possible need for St. Joseph to borrow funds to continue renovations.
- 8. If I make a pledge to the St. Joseph Commitment to Community, how many years do I have to fulfill it?** We recommend that donors have three years from the date of their pledge to fulfill it. However, we understand the recent economy has a true impact on many of us and payments can be made over a period of time that is convenient for you.
- 9. Will my gift be recognized?** Yes, contributions will be recognized in a variety of ways, depending on the size of the gift. Donors can remain anonymous at their request.

- 10. Where are the HOPE campaign monies?** All monies collected from the HOPE campaign will be used in support of building (both renovations and new construction) issues. It was always intended that the HOPE campaign was only the initial phase of a multi-phase fundraising effort. While the parish is no longer moving to a new location, we encourage you to prayerfully make a **Commitment to Community** and increase your gift for this vital effort.
- 11. What about situations in which parishioners have not completed payments on their HOPE campaign pledge?** Once someone decides how much they will give (pledge) to the **Commitment to Community** campaign, parish staff will work with them on a new payment plan, incorporating their “old” and new pledges.
- 12. What happens if we do not get enough pledges? What if someone wants their money to go to something in the latter phase of the project but final pledges don't come in to precede that far?** If we do not get enough money now, we at least know the plan so down the road as blessings and funding comes our way, we know what is next. Obviously, some items cannot be done until others are done. So, if a person has earmarked their money, it will remain in the restricted account and wait until we can afford to do that portion of the building renovation plan.
- 13. Why isn't the diocese giving any money toward project since it was stated that they were putting in funds for the new church?** The diocese’s commitment for the new church was the land which it purchased. It still owns it and will sell it when they can. The diocese does not give money to parishes. It does loan money. If that was communicated, it was a misunderstanding. The purchase of land was the only commitment other than making money available for loan via a bond that it floated with the Port Authority. That was the only commitment other than making money available for loan (approximately \$3 Million dollars). However, the finance council would have to look long and hard at how much, if any, debt we could service.
- 14. Is there a possibility for us to take out a loan?** This question and others like it will be addressed more completely when the results of the Capital Campaign are known. If we are in the middle of construction but don’t have all pledges collected, there is a good possibility that we will have to secure a “bridge loan.” Fr. Keith has put together a group of financial advisors including a liaison from the finance committee to look at those financing options once we get there. Right now, because we have kept our money deposited with the Diocesan deposit and loan program, we could borrow money from them at a rate of 4.5%. But we are not limited to that.
- 15. What is the timeline of the project?** We will begin work on the Community Center during the summer of 2010. In October 2010, we will close the church for renovation and Masses will be held in the community center. If the necessary funds are raised, we will then begin the reconfiguration and new construction plan in summer 2011.
- 16. How long will the church be closed?** The Campus Improvement Steering Committee has agreed that it is best not to book any weddings in the church for 12 months beginning in June 2010. While it will not take an entire year to renovate the Church it seems prudent, especially as weddings are booked so far in advance, to allow for a window of 12 months for Church renovations in order to not disappoint any bride and groom. It is expected that the Church will be closed completely beginning in the fall 2010 for several months in order for painting (which will require scaffolding, etc.) and other structural and cosmetic matters to be completed in a timely and safe fashion. During that time Mass will be held in the Community Center.
- 17. My children do not go to the school. Why should I support the upgrade of the school?** The “school” buildings serve many functions. The school is only one. We have approximately 250 students in our school. We also have 362 school-aged parishioners that attend public school or are homeschooled. Regardless of the “school,” we need classrooms and educational facilities to provide religious education for these students. In addition, these rooms are used for adult education, high school formation (Life Teen), Adult Formation, and a variety of other parish needs. **Teaching the tenants of our faith to future generations (young and old alike) is key to our parish’s long term viability.**
- 18. Why do we need to tear down the rectory?** There are a number of reasons. First is money. The building is in bad shape and needs a tremendous amount of work such as replacing 77 windows, heating/air conditioning and a roof. It was also built as a house for four priests and a live-in housekeeper. It now houses the parish offices. Office needs are different than residential needs. Currently there are offices which were previously bedrooms, porches, and living rooms. The building is also inaccessible for people with physical disabilities.