



# United By Faith

*Together With Christ, For Our Future*

## Capital Campaign

**Why are we doing this?**

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St. Michael, St. Joseph, and Sacred Heart parishes have a great history and are here today because of the sacrifices of many good people who came before us. As a cluster of parishes, we are now known as "The Catholic Church in East St. James Parish." While we can be proud of our accomplishments and ever grateful to God for our blessings, there are needs and opportunities to continue making improvements to our various buildings and facilities.

In September of 2013, we began working with the *Institute of School and Parish Development* (ISPD) to determine how we should proceed. In October and November we held a series of eight listening sessions and town-hall meetings to receive parishioner ideas about our current needs. This led to the December Parishioner Survey; the results were published to our parishioners in January of 2014. This was followed up by an ISPD feasibility study, interviewing a representative group of parishioners from each parish. The results were given to our Pastoral Councils which led to the decision to move forward with certain facility projects for each of our parishes. (The brochure has details; here is a general list of projects.)

### St. Michael

1. Renovation of the Parish Hall.
2. Basic upkeep to the church and fixing the parking lot.
3. Renovation of the School building.
4. Basic repairs to the rectory and attached kitchen building.

### St. Joseph

1. Renovation of the church interior, including repairs to wall and ceiling, enhancements to the sanctuary, choir loft, cry-rooms, and bathroom.
2. Expand the parking lot close to the church.

### Sacred Heart

1. Retire the parish debt.
2. Replace the church roof.
3. Some interior work to church.
4. Renovation of the parish center.
5. Minor work on the older PSR building.

The costs will vary from project to project and from parish to parish. Each project will begin in each parish as soon as the requisite funds are available. Yet, we have made the decision to have a **single *United By Faith* Capital Campaign**. *The goal of this campaign is \$2 million.* This may sound like a high dollar amount; however, with savings already on hand, and willing parishioner involvement, we should be able to achieve this goal in three years. The first projects will likely start as early as 2015.

We are true sister parishes, not just an artificial cluster; we regularly interact using each other's churches and facilities as needed: Masses and sacraments, PSR and adult retreats and meetings, the annual mission, and much more. Clearly the best path is to have a unified capital campaign. All the same, because we respect the right of each parishioner to control how his/her money is utilized, all parishioners will have choices: 1) to give to the campaign as a whole, or 2) to give strictly to their parish of registration, or 3) to split their donation by a personally chosen proportion between two or three parishes. This will be explained in detail on the "Letter of Intent" form used to sign-up for the campaign.

These are exciting times for our parishes, and we want all parishioners to be involved. We have what we have today because our parents and grandparents sacrificed to leave us a legacy. Now is our chance to contribute to the legacy left for our children and grandchildren. Be a part of the *United By Faith Capital Campaign*, and help our parishes serve our needs and those of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Fr. Vincent J. Dufresne, Pastor*