

United By Faith

Together With Christ, For Our Future

ISPD Financial Feasibility Report

April 2014

61 couples and/or individuals were interviewed in late January and February of 2014. By parish affiliation, there were 18 from St. Michael; 28 from St. Joseph; and 15 from Sacred Heart. While the number might appear to be small, combined with the Input/Listening Sessions and the Parishioner Survey conducted in the fall of 2013, ISPD was confident to give us a recommendation about a Capital Campaign.

Here are the questions asked during the interviews and a simple tabulation of responses. (The detailed answers, making up some 14 pages of information, were given to the Pastoral Councils of the three parishes for their decision on proceeding with our Capital Campaign.)

1. What is your general opinion of the parish?

53 Outstanding 8 Above Average 0 Average 0 Poor 1 No Answer

[The extra number – 62 total – here is because a couple gave different responses.]

2. How would others in the community rank and rate the parish?

53 Outstanding 8 Above Average 0 Average 0 Poor 0 No Answer

3. Are there any specific areas of the parish that you would point to as being very impressive or outstanding?

Here are the top responses which received multiple mention:

<u>48</u> Liturgy	<u>13</u> Finances
<u>16</u> St. Peter Chanel School	<u>13</u> Administration
<u>15</u> Clergy	<u>11</u> Music
<u>13</u> Parish/Office staff	<u>8</u> Communication

4. What are the greatest needs the Parish/Cluster faces at this time?

Here are the top responses which received multiple mention:

<u>27</u> Renovations and upgrades/repairs	<u>7</u> Facilities
<u>16</u> People involvement	<u>6</u> Spiritual growth
<u>10</u> Buildings and renovations	<u>5</u> Repairs
<u>8</u> Financial growth	<u>5</u> Youth involvement

5. Based upon the Case Statement (brochure) that was given to you, and the visuals you may have seen, how would you view a Capital Campaign here at the Catholic Church in East St. James?

54 Very Favorable 7 Favorable 0 Not Favorable at this time

6. Do general economic conditions and public attitude favor a Campaign in the near future?

59 Yes 0 No 2 Not sure at this time

7. To what degree would you be willing to participate in a Campaign?

A. ___ Volunteer involvement B. ___ Financial pledge C. 59 Both
D. ___ Not applicable E. 2 No answer

8. If you would consider a financial pledge, please estimate a challenging, but attainable, personal goal that you would be willing to consider giving over a 3 – 5 year pledge period. Please check one of the seven categories.

1 Category A: \$100,000+ 17 Category E: \$10,000 - \$25,000
0 Category B: \$75,000 - \$100,000 28 Category F: \$5,000 - \$10,000
1 Category C: \$50,000 - \$75,000 13 Category G: Under \$5,000
0 Category D: \$25,000 - \$50,000 1 Not at this time

ISPD reports that the 61 families interviewed already are offering pledges totaling over \$600,000!

9. Are you planning to designate your gift to one parish – or all three?

If one, which parish:

35 All three parishes – as needed = 58% of responses
11 St. Michael = 18% of responses
7 St. Joseph = 11% of responses
5 Sacred Heart = 8% of responses
2 St. Joseph & St. Michael = 3% of responses

– Number of Total Responses: **60**

10. Have you ever considered a planned gift for the parish? (Will, bequest, etc.) If no, would you consider this in the future?

23 Yes 36 No ___ Not Applicable 1 No answer

Based on these interviews, ISPD advised Fr. Vincent and the Pastoral Councils that a Capital Campaign could raise between **\$1,600,000 - \$1,800,000**.

Added explanation ([September 2014](#)) from Fr. Vincent after discussion with the Pastoral Councils, Facilities Committees, and Finance Councils:

Prior to the Input Sessions and Parishioner Survey in the fall of 2013, the three parish Facilities Committees with the Pastoral Councils created a **total projects list** with the *estimated cost* of approximately \$3,231,000. (This projects list was published to the parishioners who came to those Input Sessions so they could comment.) However, the sessions and survey showed that not everything on that total projects list received adequate parishioner support. So we were able to reduce the number of projects and bring the cost level down to match what a capital campaign was projected to bring in, namely between \$1.6 - \$1.8 million.

Besides the planned capital campaign, our parishes have other sources of funds to apply to the projects list:

The St. Michael Fall Festival will continue each year, and that income [2014-2017 – 4yrs @ \$40,000 = \$160,000] will be added to the funds available to St. Michael for her projects. Also, St. Michael has \$180,000+ in savings from the restoration collection, which will be used for the projects.

St. Joseph has \$170,000+ in savings from the building fund collection. These savings will all go toward the repair work which needs to be done on the church, which is the main purpose of the capital campaign.

Sacred Heart has continued to put all the debt reduction collections against the PSR building and Rectory loans from the Diocese of Baton Rouge, so that is below \$42,500, as of September 2014. This will be retired soon enough, and because Sacred Heart has the smallest list of needs, that list can also be taken care of by the campaign and other donations.

This gives us confidence that the current projects list – found in the *United By Faith* Parish Projects **Brochure** – can be accomplished from these multiple sources of funds combined with the Capital Campaign.

Another slight change which adds to our confidence in reaching our goal:

Beginning January 1, 2015, each parish's Restoration / Building Fund / Debt Reduction envelope and collection will be changed to a *United By Faith* envelope for the monthly second collection. This means that those who have pledged to the Campaign will be able to put their pledge donations into the second collection, the first Sunday of the month. It also means that those who have not pledged will still be able to make contributions to the Campaign month by month in the same collection just by using the special envelope. We will only have these special envelopes for the 36 months of the campaign: January 2015 - December 2017. When the campaign ends, we will return to building fund envelopes.

Because of strong parishioner generosity, and these combined means of raising funds, we are well assured to reach our Capital Campaign goal: \$2,000,000!