



United By Faith

Together With Christ, For Our Future

Letter of Intent **Commitments explained**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The success of our *United By Faith* Capital Campaign depends on your personal involvement and commitment to this whole process. No doubt, you are being asked to commit some of your financial resources to the campaign and the projects funded through this campaign. But there is so much more to this than getting and spending money. Please read on to see what I mean.

First and foremost, I firmly believe that Jesus Christ Himself wants each and every baptized person to see him/herself as a part of the **Church family**. We are not just individuals before God, but a “Chosen People” united by God’s love for us and our shared love for Him. This is true from the time of Abraham, through Jesus, and even to our present day. So, no matter the level of your involvement in this campaign, by recognizing yourself as a member of God’s People, a brother or sister of Jesus Christ, you can give your support by praying for the success of our campaign. Please use the Campaign Prayer in this packet and allow God to bless you and our communities. Please fill out the **Prayer Commitment** section and let us know you are with us.

As people belonging to families and communities, we are always interacting with others and having lengthy conversations about all sorts of topics. No doubt, you, like others, have had occasions to talk about the Church and our parishes. Your time and your social involvement are valuable to you and to others and would make a great way to be supportive of our campaign. Please look at the **Time Commitment** section and consider one or both options for commitment. *Hosting a reception or gathering* means opening your home to two or more couples/individuals to speak about the campaign and help them to see the same value which you see. It is not necessarily a “money pitch” but a chance to inform family and friends about what is happening in our parishes and how with more people involved, more can be accomplished. *Positive conversation* means sharing your hopes for the success of the campaign in casual talk which happens everywhere everyday. What you say can build on the good will needed to move our communities forward.

Yes, of course, I pray that each parish family will make some **Financial Commitment** to our *United By Faith* Capital Campaign. So I do need you to consider this commitment as well. In this packet is a sealed envelope with a suggested campaign pledge amount. You may have already opened this envelope, so you may already have feelings about what you’ve seen. Please read these next paragraphs, maybe a couple times, before making a decision. Is the amount printed there high? Most would say, “yes!” Please do not take this as some cold or calculated demand or expectation. Please also know that the dollar amount is not available for other parishioners to see; it is between you, your pastor, and God. Truly, I am challenging each family, but I want you to take the challenge as a compliment! I believe in your commitment to our parish, and I believe if you are capable of doing so that you can stretch your resources beyond what you might believe of yourself. If you cannot stretch so far, I accept whatever decision you feel yourself able to make. But, as pastor, I would not be modeling Jesus who calls us to give “without counting the cost” if I didn’t push a bit here. Please refer to the Contribution Chart included in this packet to see how your commitment can be broken down into reasonable monthly donations. This often makes the full pledge make more sense. (Keep reading on the reverse.)

The **Financial Commitment** is first of all, sacrificial. Those who were present at the establishment of our parishes and who provided the foundation upon which we now live our Catholic Faith had to make great sacrifices to provide us with what we have. I don't believe we can do anything less for those who will come after us. Our current social climate leads even the best of us to focus first on ourselves. "Taking care of #1," may be an older expression we don't hear much anymore, but the attitude is still very strong all around us. Our Faith challenges us to "serve the needs of others" before ourselves. It also means not merely giving to God or the Church what is left-over after we've taken care of ourselves but committing the *first portion* to God and the Church. Sacrificial means being affected by this commitment. Think: "I need to be willing to make a lifestyle change," as it were, to support this campaign. Maybe giving up a meal out every now and then; maybe cutting back on our entertainment allowance, or postponing some optional events or activities. "If I don't *feel the effects* this commitment, have I really given of myself?"

Second, this **Financial Commitment** is for three years, that is: 36 months (*period*)! Many people may be worried that the campaign, once started, will not end. *So, here I say as definitely as I can, as your pastor, I promise – and hold me to it, please – that I will not allow this campaign to drag out into a 37th month!* If you embrace the sacrificial nature of your commitment, there will not be a need to extend the campaign. And, if costs become higher than what the campaign brings in, we will only do what we can afford to do. Other projects will just have to wait until the funds are available. I have not yet, nor do I ever plan to go against the reasonableness of parishioner expectations. So I hear clearly that we cannot do more than funds we can raise. Also I am committed to provide the best possible, so we will not be cutting corners or getting cheaper than what we deserve.

Finally, this **Financial Commitment** is yours to decide and determine where your money goes! In this packet is a brochure that outlines the projects for each of our three parishes. We believe all these projects are worth the commitment of your money. Yet, I respect your decision as to where your money is used. Thus on the **Letter of Intent**, you have choices to make which will be honored.

The "**A**" option shows your support for the Campaign as a whole. Your contribution will be divided as needed between all three parishes. That is, even though you are registered to one parish, you are willing to share with your sister parishes according to their needs as well as your own parish needs. You trust your pastor's guidance and oversight for all that will be happening.

The "**B**" option means that you want your contribution to go fully to your home parish. This is understandable because you see the needs of your local church and want to be sure that her needs are met. You have my promise that your donation will not be syphoned off elsewhere against your directions.

The "**C**" option gives you even more control because you can tell us by percentage how you want your money to be utilized. For example, if you want 50% of your pledge to stay in your home parish and 25% to go to your two sister parishes, tell us and that is how your contribution will be handled.

You can also decide if you want to pay monthly, quarterly, or however you wish. You can handle your pledge by check, like regular contributions, or by electronic donation. (See the parish website www.rivrdcat.org for the link to set up that type of contribution.) And please notice the box where you can indicate your desire to keep your pledge anonymous.

Once more, I invite you to take up the challenge of this Capital Campaign and join with your fellow parishioners, *United By Faith*.

Fr. Vincent J. Dufresne, Pastor