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United By Faith

Together With Christ, For Our Future

***These are exciting times for our parishes.
Your participation is critical to our success.***

Questions and Answers

Q. What is the current status of the Parish Master Plan?

A. Given the results of the needs assessment from the fall of 2013, followed by the creation and refinement of a master plan based on extensive parish ministries and community input, an integrated Master Plan for each parish has been designed which outlines the needs for future generations of parishioners.

Q. What projects would be included in the Master Plan?

A. For St. Michael:
Renovation of the parish hall.
Repairs to the church and parking lot.
Renovation of the school building.
Repairs to the rectory and attached kitchen.

For St. Joseph:
Repairs and renovation of the church.
Expansion of the parking lot on the east side of the church.

For Sacred Heart:
Retiring the parish debt.
Replacing the church roof.
Some renovation to the church interior.
Renovation of the parish center.
Some renovation of the older PSR building.

Q. What are the costs of these projects?

A. Total costs will be a little over \$2 million. \$995,000, for St. Michael; \$850,000, for St. Joseph; \$500,000, for Sacred Heart, but between St. Michael and St. Joseph, we have over \$350,000, already saved.

Q. How many people have been involved in the decision-making process?

A. Every parishioner has been invited to give input through Listening Sessions, Town Hall meetings, and parishioner surveys. Ministry groups were also invited to offer a needs assessment in the early phase of the master plan project. A Financial Feasibility Study was conducted by our partners, Institute of School and Parish Development in the spring of 2014.

Q. Who made the decision to initiate the Capital Campaign?

A. The decision to conduct a Capital Campaign was recommended by ISPD to Fr. Vincent and the three Pastoral Councils. After reviewing all the material amassed to date, our pastor and councils agreed this was the way to take care of the physical needs of our parishes.

Q. Will our parishes be able to secure a loan if needed from the Diocese of Baton Rouge?

A. Yes, our parishes could secure a loan if needed. We are following the guidelines and procedures established by the Diocese of Baton Rouge. These guidelines ensure that all parish projects of this size can be responsibly completed. The Diocese of Baton Rouge requires that a parish have 50% of the projected costs of each project on hand before work can begin so that the parish does not incur indebtedness exceeding its financial resources. Then if needed, the parish can borrow the rest, at a reduced rate, from Diocesan Central Finance.

Q. How will I benefit by contributing to this Capital Campaign?

A. As a member of St. Michael, St. Joseph, or Sacred Heart Parish, your contribution to the Campaign allows you to play a vital role in assuring that we embody the mission of the Church. In a real sense, our life in our parishes today is result of not only our current acts of generosity, but the many generous acts and contributions of those parishioners who came before us who built our parish facilities and who established many of our parish ministries. Your investments in the future of our parishes will ensure your knowledge that you have given back to God a grateful portion from the many gifts that you have received. Your contribution to the Campaign will allow us to accomplish these facility needs in a timely manner and with good stewardship.

Q. I already give to the parish through financial stewardship. Do you still expect me to contribute to this campaign?

A. Parish financial stewardship cover regular operating expenses - salaries, ministries, utilities, normal repair and maintenance etc. Improving our parishes' physical plants to the extent they need attention requires a capital campaign. Your level of contribution is entirely your decision.

Q. In what ways can I make a gift to the Campaign?

A. There are numerous ways to make your financial gift to our *United By Faith* Capital Campaign. The most common is a campaign pledge that can be paid over a three-year period. The following are also methods of giving: a) Gifts of Cash; b) Gifts of Stocks, Bonds, or Mutual Funds; c) Business Gifts; d) Wills and/or Bequests; e) Gifts of Real Estate or Personal Property.

The gift of your **time** as a Campaign volunteer is an important way to further support the Campaign. We also ask each member of our Parish Cluster community to **pray** for the success of the Campaign. Naturally all gifts of time, talent, and treasure will be greatly appreciated.

Q. How much am I asked to contribute?

A. Each person or family is being asked prayerfully to consider a *sacrificial* gift for the good of the parish today and for years to come. No amount is too small and all gifts are greatly appreciated.

Q. What happens if we do nothing at all?

A. If we do nothing to address the needs of our church parishes, we will ignore the concerns expressed by fellow parishioners and fail to advance our mission. Specifically the projects included in this Master Plan have been suggested, supported and recommended by our parish communities.

Q. Will my contribution be kept confidential?

A. Yes. Only the Pastoral Center finance and campaign office will have a record of your contribution, similar to your regular financial stewardship. Any donor can choose to remain anonymous as well.

Q. Does our Parish Cluster have key financial leadership to make a Campaign successful?

A. Right now, we feel confident that we do. The recent financial feasibility study confirmed this assessment. Our parish financial stewardship is stable. We are fortunate to have a number of families and individuals who continue to be generous to our parishes. Coupled with those who have expressed an interest in the process leading up to the Campaign, we believe we will be successful.

Q. What is the overall vision for our parishes in terms of liturgy, spiritual life, religious education, community life and social responsibility ministries?

A. Our Catholic vision is expressed in both our being a stewardship parish and having a specific parish mission within the Church. The three pillars of Catholic life are prayer, ministry and financial stewardship. We provide the foundation for creating Catholic life in our parishes using these three elements.