

Building Forward in Our Faith Capital Campaign
Presentation by Joe Bagnoli, Building Project Committee Chairperson
Speech given October 3 & 4, 2015 after the Masses

I'm Joe Bagnoli, the Building Project Committee Chairperson. I appreciate having a few minutes of your time to provide you with information and an update on our building project.

I've spent my life learning in classrooms and worshipping in churches I did not build. Other people made it possible for me to grow up in the Catholic Church. The building project at St. Mary's gives me a chance to help with the faith formation of others; to express gratitude for what I was given as a young Catholic and to participate in building a faith community in a place that has been welcoming and generous to my children and me.

As you probably know, what started as a \$4.3 million project to be completed in two fundraising and building phases is now a \$2.3 million campaign that we plan to complete in one building phase. We have cut the project budget as much as possible without making significant compromises to our plan.

As the drawings you'll see around the church and in your bulletin suggest, we'll build new classroom space, parish offices, a fellowship hall and kitchen, a new entryway, elevator, and gathering space, and make improvements to our sanctuary and nave.

All the goals of our original project are met in the revised plan we have; a plan that now requires \$2 million less in funding than our earlier plan.

Grinnell College will take possession of the REC in the summer of 2017. [It makes me nervous just to say that.] When we first discussed swapping the college for the buildings to our North, 2017 seemed like a long way off. But it means that we need to break ground later this spring so we can complete our building project before the college takes possession of the REC.

Breaking ground this spring requires more cash-in-hand. Several of you have already made two pledges to this campaign. Your gifts have truly inspired us to complete this project. Thank you for responding in such a generous way to our request for help. Others of you, recognizing that we are trying to complete the project in one building phase, are still contemplating a second pledge or making the commitment to extend your original pledge by 3-5 years. Thank you for this important next step in your financial planning.

Some of you are new to St. Mary's or have been waiting to pledge or resume payments on an earlier pledge until our building plans became clearer. Later this month, the college intends to remove the former Bates Flower Shop, Greenhouses, and the house they acquired from the Whites next door. They will compact the ground for building and allow us to use the REC until the summer of 2017. Our plan reflects considerable feedback from you and we hope that everyone will support the project, even if your personal wish list of features isn't entirely reflected in the plan; designing a building in community has required some compromises from all of us. But we're getting favorable feedback on the new plan and revised budget.

Some of you have made small, sacrificial gifts. We are very appreciative of these. Several of you have pledged over \$20,000 to the new construction costs. The St. Mary's Foundation has made a generous pledge to this project and we have received at least \$30,000 so far from the wider community of Grinnell. One of you has already given enough money to renovate this sanctuary and nave. All of these gifts bring us closer to a spring groundbreaking. But we still need to hear from many of you.

We are asking every family at St. Mary's to make a financial contribution to this project. If you have not already made a first or second pledge or agreed to extend your original pledge, please take the next few weeks leading up to what we're calling Commitment Weekend at the end of this month, to contemplate your financial participation in this project. For a list of interesting commemorative opportunities, please consult the bulletin.

Members of our Building Project Committee, also listed in this weekend's bulletin, are available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to call on us. We're counting on your participation so we can build forward in our faith.

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