

SUZI

Good evening.

Right off the bat, I want you to know that I did **not** raise my hand and volunteer to be here speaking about the Capital Campaign. My son-in-law tapped me on the shoulder and asked. Let's just say he owes me big time.

However, despite this, I wanted to share with you why I support our Capital Campaign and hope that those of you who are on the fence will make a commitment to this project.

My faith has always been an important part of my life, and Bill and I have imparted this sense of importance to our daughter Renee, whose family are members of this parish as well. Ever since my in-laws George and Liz arrived in Grinnell, this church opened its arms, and for three generations has never let go.

With this Capital Campaign we have an opportunity to lay foundations for more generations to follow, much like George and Liz did for Bill and I, and did for our daughter Renee and her family.

Our beautiful church, a sacred space to so many over the years, has been a place for us to gather in prayer for decades. But people of faith do not gather only in prayer. We also build community by getting to know one another in educational and social settings.

I know this very well as I have been involved in many committees and activities over the years. From Parish Council to Fall Festivals, to Funeral Luncheons, I know the importance of community in a parish.

Some of you may not know that all the while, I have been teaching Faith Formation classes for nearly 30 years. I have spent most of those years helping to prepare our young ones for their First Reconciliation and First Communion. I can tell you first hand that although the classroom I use does the job so to speak, ... it does have issues.

When it rains, my room is wet. In the winter, we need space heaters to keep the room warm. I know you may think that some simple repairs would fix the issues, but over the years, and many fixes later, the water and the cold still come to visit.

Not only would the new building alleviate those issues, but for the first time, my class will be on the same side of the street as our church. It doesn't sound like a big deal, but when preparing our young ones for the body and blood of Christ, the closeness to the church makes a difference. No longer will the church be "over there" or "across the street", but now we can take a few steps and **be here**, making the wonder of the sacraments more of a personal experience.

In the end, I ask that you please prayerfully consider what you can do for this project as the time has come to significantly improve our facilities in order to more effectively educate our youth and continue as a parish family for not only for ourselves, but generations to come.