We can complete our building project — but only if you do your part to help

- The Building Our Future in Christ Capital Campaign has been the most ambitious financial effort in our parish’s history.
- We are in the closing stages.
- We invite all parishioners, visitors, and school alumni to raise the needed funds to improve and expand our church facilities.
- The impact of our proposed building project extends beyond our campus, signaling that we have a welcoming and vibrant faith community, and positioning our parish for long term sustainability.
- The $4,941,000 goal is conservative and includes retiring the remaining school debt.
- The opinion of probable cost has not been put out for formal bids nor analyzed for value engineering, both of which could result in a lower cost.
- It also does not factor in contributed labor by skilled and bonded parishioner-contractors.
- We have many options for reducing the cost estimate, but they all require stepping forward in faith with our collective financial commitments.
- For the project to move forward, we need every household’s decision; we can then determine the collective funds raised and seek final approval from the Diocese of Duluth.
- We are counting on you to do your part—we expect great things from the great people who care about our parish and its future!

- The campaign commitments we make show our willingness to pass on what we have received: the gift of faith centered in Christ and the facilities others built before us that we’ve enjoyed for many years. It is now up to us to foster and secure these good things for ourselves and for generations to come.
- We are gratified by the energy and spirit of those who have already offered their financial support. As of September 1, 2016, we have raised $2,495,405 in commitments and contributions. Yet, 79% of our registered households have not weighed in with their decision.
- If you have received your information folder and are pondering your decision, please spend some time listening to God speak to you. Then, based on your financial blessings, reach your decision and return your completed form so that we can move forward with the project. Remember that every decision returned will bring us one step closer to our financial and participation goals.

Heavenly Father,

Your Son spoke to St. Francis of Assisi
From the crucifix
In the Church of San Damiano—
“Rebuild My Church.”

He speaks to us today—
“Build My Church.”

May the prayers of St. Francis,
And the prayers and sacrifices
We offer today,
Bring us to that end,
And to the salvation we seek.

We ask this through
Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Continued on page 2)
Why is it so important that you respond NOW?

- Throughout the process we have balanced forward thinking with a fiscally responsible action plan.
- With construction costs at very competitive levels and construction financing rates at their most attractive in decades, we may not have another opportunity like this to complete a project of this size and scope in such a cost-effective a manner.
- To be fiscally responsible we cannot consider proceeding with detailed project planning until we have financial commitments from our registered households.
- If you are “waiting to see what happens” before returning your commitment form, please know that we cannot proceed if we do not demonstrate the financial support needed to complete the building project.

Many opportunities to invite support

- We have worked hard to provide many opportunities to invite everyone’s support over the past six months including individual contacts, small group gatherings, and 20-minute sessions after Masses on two weekends this past spring.
- Our efforts have been well-organized, dignified, respectful of your time, and confidential when it comes to your decision.
- Now, we have reached the point where we must launch an ambitious effort to personally contact all households who have not received their folder or responded with their decision.

Concluding the Campaign by October 20

- We are enlisting more than 160 volunteer visitors to personally contact other parishioners with this important invitation.
- Please reflect on your blessings and capacity to respond.
- Recognizing that you are busy with the many priorities in your life, we ask you to keep in mind the volunteers are also busy people.
- It would be most helpful when the volunteer contacts you to arrange a brief meeting that you please set aside time to meet with him or her as soon as possible.
- You may meet the volunteer in your home, his or her home, before or after school or Mass, at a coffee shop—anywhere you are both comfortable.
- The volunteer will deliver your personalized folder that includes all the material you will need to make an informed decision about your commitment.
- During your brief visit, the volunteer will try to answer questions that you may have about the proposed project and the process for inviting your confidential financial support.
- The volunteer visitor will not tell you what you must contribute, and there will be no pressure for you to respond with a specific decision during your brief meeting.
- Following the visit, you will be asked to privately fill out your commitment form, place it into the confidential envelope, and forward your decision to Fr. Tony within 10–14 days.
- Stay tuned for more information as we work to wrap up our Capital Campaign by October 20. This will enable our financial leaders to determine whether we can afford to proceed and allow the next steps in the project planning process to move forward.
- Please keep this project in your prayers that the Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of all parishioners so they may understand the opportunity we have to shape and secure the future of our beloved church and school. And that through this project, every parish household would offer a sacrificial financial commitment based on their blessings and capacity.

St. Francis of Assisi’s Rule instructed the brothers to “preach by their deeds.” How will you choose to let God speak through your deeds when it comes to our building project?
There are many benefits that would come from having new and refreshed spaces, and our visions of those benefits are likely as varied as we are. Perhaps we visualize approaching from the west and admiring our beautiful entrance complemented by the addition to the north. Or perhaps we’ve imagined walking straight into the addition from the east parking lot without having to navigate steps.

Our Faith Formation and Evangelization team has some pretty striking visions, themselves.

While the elementary aged students do better in the classroom settings afforded by St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School, there are times when Celeste Badger, director of elementary school faith formation, and the teachers need a larger space. Special events or parent/large group meetings can be a challenge in the gym. Being able to use the new gathering space or updated social hall will offer a quieter, more controlled setting for this sometimes rambunctious group.

The high school classes have settled in at St. Andrew. But when New Pathways or another large event needs the classrooms, high school faith formation director Dan Johnson, the facilitators, and the teens need a space that can support their numbers. The additional meeting spaces as well as the larger gathering spaces will accommodate the high school program quite nicely.

The largest impact, however, may be on the middle grades. Britt Johnson, director of middle school faith formation, recently shared her clear vision for the updated and new spaces:

“Middle school faith formation is held at the school on Wednesday nights, and I foresee using the new spaces quite a bit! The school is great for a lot of reasons, but it does not fit our needs in every situation. We hold a number of small group discussions in the art room, cafeteria, on the stairs, etc. The new spaces at the church will offer more intimate settings for small group discussions. When we have Mass or adoration, we’ll be able to go straight into small groups without having to walk over to the school to finish the night. The new space will be a great benefit for prayer and adoration, to keep their minds focused for the night.”

Many dreams for our new and updated spaces will be made a reality through this project. Please continue to pray, and, if you have not forwarded your commitment form, yet, please do so now.
Campaign Timeline

We’ve come a long way in the past year and a half! Here’s what we’ve accomplished so far and where we’re headed next:

**Preliminary Planning for Capital Campaign | March/April 2015**
Confirm timelines, strategies, theme/brand/visual identity, proposed objectives, engage volunteer leadership and staff, create communications plan.

**Kickoff Weekend | October 2015**
Launch the effort via a Kickoff Weekend and two open parish meetings to build ownership for the proposed campaign objectives.

**Advance Gift | November/December 2015 and Early January 2016**
Personally invite financial commitments from households with greater financial capacity to help “jump start” the campaign.

**Circles of Support Invitation | January 2016–April 2016**
Personally invite financial commitments from households involved in ministry groups to continue “jump starting” the campaign.

**In Church Invitation | May 2016**
Personally invite financial commitments after Mass on two consecutive weekends.

**Entering the Campaign’s Closing Stages | September 2016**
Reach out to the rest of the parish households that have not received their campaign folders.

### Gifts Needed to Reach our $4,941,000 Campaign Goal

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Information is current as of 9/1/16.

### Upcoming Events

- **St Francis School Foundation Dinner | September 30, 2016**
- **St Francis Festival and Booya | October 1, 2016**
- **Building Our Future in Christ Capital Campaign Concludes | October 20, 2016**