What is the “Growing Into Our Future” Campaign?

The “Growing Into Our Future” (GIOF) campaign is a parish-wide fundraising campaign designed to provide the foundation for the operations, maintenance and ministries at Church of the Ascension (“COA”) well into the future. The campaign is constructed as a five-year pledge campaign, inviting every parishioner to contribute. The solicitation period will run from April through September 2021.

What is the goal of the GIOF Campaign?

Our goal is to reach every member of Our Church of the Ascension Parish family with the invitation and encouragement to participate in raising one and a half million dollars ($1.5M) in order to meet two specific needs – construction of a new parish office building and the establishment of a parish fund which will support the Mission, Ministry, and Maintenance of Our Church well into the next 50 years!

Can we raise that much money? Especially in this time of a pandemic?

We Believe That We Can! And here is why . . . Prior to embarking on this campaign, we contracted with Greater Missions LLC, a strategic fund-development consulting firm that specializes in serving the Church and faith-based organizations, who assisted us in conducting a Feasibility Study. The counselor sat with 34 families in Our Parish, and we conducted an online survey, to which we received 110 responses. One striking note, seen in our study results and other parishes conducting large scale fundraising drives during the COVID-19 period, is that there is a great desire from people to reach out now to support their churches and fellow parishioners. After a thorough review of the responses received, there was sufficient interest, excitement and verbal commitment in support of the campaign.

How much of my pledge or donation is going to go to the Diocese?

We have received assurances that the monies that we raise in this fundraising campaign will remain with the Church of the Ascension for use by and for Our Parish. Our Diocese is fully supportive of our initiative to improve our facilities with a new parish office and our efforts to secure our programs and facilities for Our Next 50 Years!
Why do we need a NEW parish office?

Six years ago, when we launched the Diocesan Living Our Mission fundraising campaign, we believed it was feasible to renovate the existing parish office building. In the interim, the 50+ year old structure has continued to deteriorate to the point where it is simply not cost effective to renovate. The current building was originally constructed as a single-family residence and can no longer support our vibrant and growing COA Parish of more than 1,300 registered families and greater than 80 ministries.

Can we use the current Parish Office building for something else?

No. For the same reasons that striving to continuously repair and maintain the current building is not feasible or adequate to support the growing needs of our Parish, neither is attempting to maintain the building for other uses. Also, a space study of our existing grounds and facilities has revealed that we have ample space in our existing facility without needing to maintain an old house. The ‘old’ Parish office building will be demolished and the area it currently sits on will be preserved as ‘green space’.

What is the anticipated cost of the new Parish Office?

We have solicited and received preliminary estimates for the construction of our new office and demolition of the old office building. We anticipate construction will be around $750,000. Additional costs for architectural fees, permits, professional fees, security/camera/fire equipment and some new furniture will bring the total projection to approximately one million dollars($1,000,000.00), with $249,000 of that being contingency monies. This figure will be offset by the $210,000 previously raised during the Living Our Mission campaign.

Why is the new Parish Office going to cost so much?

The new Parish Office will be a 2,800 sq. ft., built-by-design, fully functioning, commercial building with sufficient capability and space to support our Parish today, and future needs for tomorrow as we grow as a vibrant faith community. The office design includes a reception office, waiting area, six offices, a conference room, an administrative work room, a secure storage room and two restrooms. The location of the new office building will also provide a single point of entry into the church facility on weekdays, providing enhanced security and safety to our staff and parishioners.

What happened to the “Living Our Mission” money that was intended for the parish office?

Those monies are still here. We have used some of those designated funds to pay for the architectural drawings and estimates, and we have $210,000 remaining that will be applied to the cost of the new Parish Office.

What is the purpose of the Mission, Ministry, and Maintenance Fund?

Our goal is to make this GIOF Capital Campaign a comprehensive one that includes both current and projected parish needs so that future fundraising drives can be minimized. This fund, once established, will be sustained through investments and undesignated legacy gifts made to Church of the Ascension. Examples of items that would be supported through this fund include: Items outside of our yearly budget (such as New Ministry Initiatives, Future Facility Capital Improvements), Rectory Upgrades, 50th Anniversary Projects, an Emergency Fund, and a possible playground, to name but a few.
**When will the new Parish Office be built?**

This is an exciting time for Church of the Ascension! We are working closely with Our 50th Anniversary Committee in hopes of coordinating the Parish Office building scheduled with the Anniversary events. Provided that we receive a sufficient number of actual donations or confirmed pledged donations (of which we are well on our way), we hope to break ground in the Fall of 2021 and construction is expected to take 6-7 months.

**I’ve heard mention of a playground – will that be a part of this project?**

Parishioners have expressed a desire to make the Church of the Ascension a more inviting community for younger families. In order to accomplish that, some parishioners believe that providing a safe place for our children to play would enable families to more easily meet and allow their participation in activities and fellowship with other parishioners. We are investigating the feasibility of installing a playground for our youngest community members. Issues that need to be addressed are purchase and installation costs, liability issues, security requirements and the location on the grounds. While we complete this investigation to decide on its feasibility, we have decided to place this item on a list of possible expenditures that could be supported by the Mission, Ministry and Maintenance Fund being established within the GIOF Campaign.

**How can I participate in the “Growing Into Our Future” Campaign?**

A series of informational presentations, announcements and mailings will be forthcoming. Every COA Parishioner will be asked to learn about the campaign, evaluate your individual situation, PRAY and discern your ability and capacity to support this plan which will ensure the future of Our Church of the Ascension Parish. For those who can support the campaign financially, you will be asked to pledge your support and projected contribution. Donations may be made cash, check, credit/debit card or via on-line giving for a period of up to five years or less.

**If I choose to donate, how much am I expected to pledge?**

That is a question to be answered between yourself and God! We know that everyone’s situation is different. There is no right or wrong amount. Every dollar brings Us closer to Growing Into Our Future!

We ask that you prayerfully consider what Your Catholic Faith Means to You - What Your Church of the Ascension Parish Means to You – What You Feel in Your Heart and in Your Soul that God is Asking You to Do – and Give What You Feel Called to Give!