

ST. MATTHEW CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

CAMPAIGN NEWS • ISSUE 3 • JANUARY 15, 2021



FROM FR. LEO



Dear Parishioners,

In reflecting on our history here, one can only marvel at the vision and courage of those who have come before us in faith.

In much tougher times and with great uncertainty, a handful of courageous Catholics from Offutt, were determined to solve a problem.

They embodied the words of St. Bonaventure: “No one can be happy unless he rises above himself, not by ascent of the body, but of the heart.” With uplifted hearts, they trusted.

The solution to their problem and at the roots of our St. Matthew family was Cardinal Spellman school. This was their commitment to one another. This was their legacy to all of us.

What will be our legacy?

How will each of us discern our role and our sacrifice for this effort and the future of our beloved parish family?

Watching, listening and considering, Discernment seeks clarity and good judgement. Discernment does his best; he strolls without hurry and sizes up things; he puts first things first and sacrifices the rest.

But, if he is not taken by the hand and guided by the light of Grace, Discernment’s best efforts fail. Prayer opens the louvers to grant the entrance of Graces’ rays.

As this courageous good work moves forward, Discernment will keep us focused upon our real purpose: providing for the fruitful future of our parish family, guided by Grace and Prayer.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Leo Rigatuso



CONTINUING OUR JOURNEY

U p o n T h i s R o c k

AMBASSADORS REACH OUT

“Our campaign process is unlike most”, said Joe Akers of For the Greater. “Our process is about prayer not pressure. Discernment involves gathering information, asking questions, talking with your family and personal prayer.”

To assist in the discernment process:

- Our **Events Team** hosted events to share information and answer questions.
- Our **Communications Team**, using multi-media, has masterfully created medium through which information has been shared.
- At campaign events, parish leaders detailed campaign objectives.
- Our **Prayer Team** has set the spiritual tone a campaign prayers and novena.
-

COMMITMENT WEEKEND is January 30-031

Every household will soon receive a campaign packet including a campaign brochure. We ask that pledge cards be placed in the collection box before Masses on commitment weekend, returned in the mail or dropped off at the parish office.

continue reading story on page 2

Commitment Weekend • January 30-31

Ambassadors Reach Out continued ...

CAMPAIGN AMBASSADOR TEAM

During the week of January 24, our ambassadors will call parish households with two objectives:

- To make sure campaign materials have been received
- To answer questions about the building project and/or campaign
- They are not calling to ask for a campaign pledge/commitment. These calls are to simply answer any remaining questions.

Your Ambassadors Team

Co-Chairs: Mary Lomax, Crystal Wray **Team:** Lisa Brandon, Chad Diaz, Mary Jo Holdcroft, Amy Huck, Ed Janeczko, Carmen Klein, Marcia Klein, Jimmy Maday, Phil McEvoy, Al Pollock, Vicki Smith, Charles Tomlinson

CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION

Live Streamed

Thanks to all who have attended one of the campaign events. In addition to the fellowship, the event is a great venue to hear campaign details (first-hand), to get an understanding of the campaign process and to have questions answered.

Our Events Team has done a wonderful job in guiding our campaign events thru the Covid-19 protocol. However, the precaution taken by some parishioners in not attending, is understandable and respected.

Regardless, it's beneficial for St. Matthew if everyone has the opportunity to learn of the campaign details and process. Toward that objective, the campaign presentation will be live-streamed on:

Thursday, January 21 • 7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 26 • 7:00 pm

To access the presentation, go to the parish website stmatthewbellevue.org and click Campaign Presentation Live. During the presentation, a cell number will be shared to allow folks to text or call in with their questions.

12330 S 36th Street Bellevue, NE 68123

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS Event Questions & Answers

Some of the questions, with answers, from our campaign events include:

Can we donate to the campaign thru a QCD (Qualified Charitable Deduction)?

Yes. "QCDs" allow IRA owners who are 70 ½ or older to directly transfer up to \$100,000 annually from an IRA to charity, tax-free. QCDs are limited to pretax IRA funds. The key to a QCD is that the funds must be paid directly from the IRA to the charity. Your financial institution drafts a check directly to your charity. You may not take a distribution from your IRA and then contribute it to a charity, as this is a taxable event.

By having the money sent directly to a charity, the withdrawal of this retirement income does not increase one's income and possibly raise one's tax bracket, which could affect higher payments of Medicare and overall taxes. Using a QCD could save significant dollars. A tax professional can provide sound guidance on QCDs.

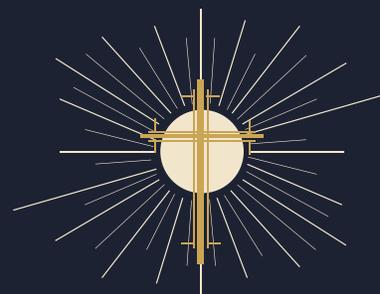
Will we get reminders for our campaign pledges?

Yes. Reminders will come quarterly, beginning on April 1, 2021.

How much of my campaign gift goes to the archdiocese?

Zero. It all stays at St. Matthew.

Campaign details and Q & A are available on the parish website: stmatthewbellevue.org



PARISH NOVENA

As one family discerning God's will in our lives, please join us for a parish Novena of prayers and reflection, written by our St. Matthew Prayer team. The Novena reflections, included in this newsletter, will also be published daily on the parish website.