

ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

3100 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE
LEVITTOWN, NY
(516) 731-4220

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM FR. RALPH



Dear Parishioner,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our *Let's Build!* campaign. I am grateful for the ways you support our parish and I hope for your continued help in the days ahead!

In connection with our 70th year anniversary, our *Let's Build!* campaign will address the parish needs we face today and in years to come. **While we have much work ahead of us to reach our goal of \$1.75 million, less than 100 families have pledged \$500,000 already.**

I am asking that you join with your fellow parishioners, review this brochure, and make a generous pledge. I ask that you give serious consideration to a contribution that will be given over several years. There are different gift levels included for you to consider. A pledge can be broken down into annual, semi-annual, quarterly or even monthly payments over a 3- to-5 year period.

There are also a variety of ways to make your pledge. For those who use the internet, there is a very easy way, and you may also gain significant tax advantages.

I am grateful for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father Ralph Sommer".

Father Ralph Sommer
Pastor
St. Bernard's Church



**TOGETHER WE
WILL BUILD:**



**A WELCOMING PLACE FOR
ALL PARISHIONERS**



**A SAFER AND MORE
CONVENIENT CHURCH
CAMPUS**



**AN ENHANCED PRESENCE
IN LEVITTOWN**



OUR CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS FROM TOWER TO STEEPLE

Estimated costs: \$480,000

Our Church tower has been leaking and growing mold for the last twenty years.

The interior construction of the tower was faulty from the start. Water has gotten inside the walls, deteriorated the sheetrock, and created an ongoing mold and rust condition.



Damage in the interior walls of the current tower



We plan to remove the tower, construct a traditional steeple, and build a replacement room where the current “back room” is. Besides the visual and aesthetic advantages of a new steeple, we also won't lose heat and air conditioning as we currently do – ultimately saving funds in our parish budget in longer terms.

Our old church had a steeple and this would connect us to our past. Our new steeple would be seen at night by the Levittown community as it would be lit.

Our tiny vestibule offers little space for gathering before and after Mass.

As we start the prayers at each funeral, we look out the doors of our Church to the family who is walking with the casket, as they stand outside in the elements.

In bad weather, parishioners with disabilities must wait outside as their rides come. Wedding processions are squeezed into the small lobby area. Mass attendees must go over to the rectory if they need any services such as Mass cards, baptismal certificates, new registrations, etc.

Imagine our parish with a larger, more welcoming lobby, and an alcove for the parish receptionist! It would solve these and other problems! A significantly expanded entrance to our church would also allow a better flow of people entering and exiting the church. So many other churches have great welcoming gathering spaces -- ours could be much better and be enjoyed by our entire community for generations to come.



FROM VESTIBULE TO LOBBY

Estimated costs: \$200,000



A sample of what our lobby area might look like!



We have long recognized the need to renovate our parking lot. From its problematic traffic flow to its lack of adequate lighting, our campus is not as safe as it could be for our parishioners and guests.

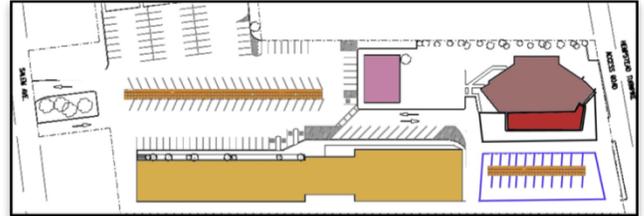
We plan to use the \$600,000 held aside from our last campaign to:

- Redesign our parking lot for better traffic flow
- Create beautiful entrances to our campus
- Add additional parking near the church building
- Reorient parking spots
- Create a safe walkway
- Add lighting for safety

REIMAGINE OUR PARKING

Estimated Costs: \$800,000

We've already raised \$600,000 from the last campaign.



OUR LONG TERM PLAN TRANSFORM OUR CAMPUS

A significant part of our long term vision is to rearrange our campus in a more streamlined way to better serve our parishioners.

The engineer's report recommended that we move all parish offices from their current locations to the convent building. "Retiring" the aging buildings (rectory and Clairvaux House) would also save over \$60,000 a year in building and maintenance expenses, instead of continually putting money into their repair and upkeep.

In the future, we will:

- Demolish the Clairvaux House and the Rectory/parish offices
- Build an extension on the convent to house the parish offices and the rectory, as well as continue housing for the sisters
- Use the land where the Rectory is for a better entrance and closer parking

WHAT NOW?

There are three simple steps to joining your fellow parishioners and making your pledge to the **Let's Build** campaign at St. Bernard!



1.

CONSIDER YOUR OWN PLEDGE

How much can you sacrifice on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual basis?

Gift	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	Sacrifice
\$10,000	\$6	\$46	\$167	\$500	\$2,000	Newspaper and breakfast <i>daily</i>
\$7,500	\$4	\$28	\$125	\$375	\$1,500	Bagel and small coffee <i>daily</i>
\$6,000	\$3	\$25	\$100	\$300	\$1,200	Trip to movies <i>weekly</i>
\$4,500	\$2	\$17	\$75	\$225	\$900	Cell phone bill <i>monthly</i>
\$3,000	\$1.57	\$11	\$50	\$150	\$600	Pack of gum <i>daily</i>

2. THINK ABOUT THE MANY WAYS TO GIVE



There are many tax-smart ways to make a gift to St. Bernard's Church... do one of these ways work best for you? Be sure to talk with your tax advisor to pick a way that benefits both you and the parish.

- **CASH GIFTS** This is the most common way to make a tax-deductible gift, paid over 3-5 years.
- **GIFTS OF SECURITIES** A gift of appreciated stock is a way to make a significant contribution at a reduced cost.
- **IRA DISTRIBUTION** Are you **70.5 years old or older?** You can direct your IRA distribution to St. Bernard, and have this money excluded from your gross income and counted toward your required minimum distribution.
- **INSURANCE POLICY** You can transfer ownership of an insurance policy to the parish that has outlived its purpose; you may also name the parish as a co-beneficiary so it will receive part of the proceeds of the policy.
- **GIFT OF ASSETS** Items such as artwork, jewelry, automobiles, bonds, and other valuables can be cashed in, or given by outright gift or by bequest.

3. FILL OUT YOUR PLEDGE FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE PARISH

Making a pledge is a good faith intention, and not a legally binding commitment.

Fill out your pledge card and return it to Fr. Ralph, or the Parish Office. Once you fill out your pledge card, you can begin your pledge by paying online through Faith Direct, or through the mail. *Bonus: If you use your credit card through Faith Direct you can get points or miles!* **For Faith Direct go to: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/NY272>**



Questions? Please call the Parish Office at (516) 731-4220.

