



Rebuild.
Restore.
Renew.





CAMPAIGN MESSENGER

TRINITY CLUSTER

~ ST. BRIDGET PARISH ~ ST. MARY PARISH ~ ST. PATRICK PARISH ~
www.trinitycluster.com

January 9, 2019

Dear Parishioner,

I am pleased to present to you the third Campaign Messenger. In this document you will find information that will be very helpful as you continue to participate in our Capital Campaign “Rebuild, Restore, Renew.” If you have not made your pledge yet, I would like to invite you to prayerfully consider making it as soon as possible. Every parishioner has a particular financial responsibility to their family and also to their parish. Remember that every amount small or large will make a big difference to our campaign.

As your pastor, I am very grateful to you for your continued financial support to your parish. The Capital Campaign at St. Mary Catholic Church officially launched on October 14, 2018. Since then, we have received **twenty-seven** pledges totaling **\$100,000**. We have already received significant donations from non-registered parishioners who have relatives in our parish, people that had visited and contributed in the past while others decided to contribute as they heard about the campaign. To each “Thank You!” I am very grateful to those who so gratefully pledge their amounts for the next three years and have begun their contributions.

In this newsletter, I am including a letter that was written by Ashley Simon regarding the campaign. I asked her to write it as I felt we need to hear from young families how they feel and how they continue to contribute to our parish and Cluster. I have also included a quote from a non-parishioner who wrote an e-mail last year and wanted to contribute. In future newsletters, I will be including other quotes from letters or e-mails once I receive permission from the persons who wrote. You may ask yourself “Why is Father Nils doing it and what is the purpose?” The simple answer is that sometimes we need to see what the mission of our parish has done in the lives of so many people.

I am very grateful to our Capital Campaign Committee and the many volunteers who continue to dedicate their gifts and talents to our parish. Please remember that through the prayerful, volunteer, and financial support of many we will succeed in our task and by doing so, help to make our Parish Family a stronger, more viable faith community.



Yours in Christ,

Rev. Nils Hdez.

Rev. Nils de Jesús Hernández



LETTER FROM ASHLEY SIMON

Dear Parish Family,

Happy HOLY-days!
Blessings to your home
in this New Year 2019!

My name is Ashley Simon and my husband Adam and I have two children: Payton, 6 and Kyra, 5. You may hear or see us bouncing around—that's us! I

have found myself in a mix of wonder, challenge, and excitement regarding our Capital Campaign: Rebuild. Restore. Renew. More specifically, after recent reflection of Fr. Levenhagen's death, God rest his soul, and his role in my own faith life as he gifted my siblings and I with our First Eucharist—red carpet and all; I cannot help but begin to recognize the many gifts a parish provides to each of its members—even if not understood.

I've only been a member at St. Mary for some 20 years so I cannot even imagine the memories and sense of belonging some of our elder members feel toward our parish. When Mr. Brooks showed the photos of our early church and specifically of the first church building that had burned down, all I could think of was how much our early members sacrificed to **REBUILD** and give us future generations a home to gather and worship God as He deserves. I find a sense of responsibility and gratitude for what they did and can only imagine how they would delight in our desire to **RESTORE** (and in some regards simply maintain) the building they worked on with their own hands in hopes that it would **RENEW** their faith. Now some 100 years later we unite with their desire.

As much as I could draw connection to them and acknowledge that great sense of pride we find in knowing "**St. Mary is our parish**," I am drawn to something much deeper: this Parish family, this church building is much bigger than ourselves, the Priests who have served here, the memories made—this Catholic Church St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, McGregor, Iowa is a House of God—of GOD!

Our rich Catholic faith centers itself in the great love God has for us and how in that love He gave the Catholic Church, and only the Catholic Church, the authority and grace to be able to give His People Himself in the Eucharist: Jesus' True Body and Blood. Jesus Himself said that "I will build my

church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it" (Matt 16:18b). So even during time of great scandal and sadness, we as Catholics can hold our head high because of Christ's promise. Not because of ourselves, but because God has used and will continue to use the Catholic Church as a vehicle for souls to know, love and serve Him. We as one Catholic parish must **REBUILD** the structure to **RESTORE** the love that enables people to **RENEW** their lives. It is our gift to be able to be a part of God's Church.

In hopes to not overelaborate, former Mega-Church Pastor Allen Hunt wrote, "It became obvious why Catholics had built such beautiful cathedrals and churches throughout the world. Not as gathering or meeting places for Christians. But as a home for Jesus Himself in the Blessed Sacrament" (28). The Church building is where we and we invite others to come and meet Jesus. The building itself can help to prepare us for the beauty of Heaven—a kind of foretaste. *No one would claim that there is loss in efforts to build up or renew these thoughts.*

Nonetheless, the sacrifice of actually doing this takes effort: limiting meals out, putting off that new car, turning down the heat in our homes, whatever it is, it can make a difference. As many of us families already live month to month, I know it seemed abstract to how we could make a difference in addition to already weekly offertory and set pledge amounts. Thankfully Adam and I found an over/under goal for monthly finances so that if the little things add up then we can give additionally to the campaign. I am confident that with God's grace to discipline ourselves we can do it! *Please pray for us.*

All of this reminds me of the gospel we heard near the end of the liturgical calendar year in Mark 12: 41-44: the poor widow giving all she could. What she gave was actually quite small, but it was her whole livelihood—she took a risk and was blessed! We are still learning from and talking about her some 2000 years later! Anyway, I couldn't help but think of her again when each of our kids took \$3 of a \$5 gift to put in their own envelope for Mama Mary after the first town hall meeting. They couldn't forget the paint-peeling imagine of Mary outside the Church. They kept saying 'poor Mary' and whenever they hear about the Capital Campaign they interpret it as "Helping Mary."

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the Mississippi River and of our own Parish community, gave God a *yes* that would forever change the world—through just one *yes*! *Do we believe in that same power of our own 'yeses' to God?* Can you imagine the strength of our parish when we all come together with our *yes*?

I think it's worth it to start with a challenge to each child of Mary in our parish to match or surpass that initial \$3 to "Help

Mary"...maybe even each weekend allowing our children's offertory to go towards "Helping Mary." Last month we celebrated Mary's birthday, our shared feast day—The Immaculate Conception—*how great would it be to gift her as repainted and protected as from the youth of our parish?*

With God all things are possible,
so let's say Yes!

*Lord have Mercy,
Ashley Amen*



Quote found in the book by Allen R. Hunt, *Confessions of a Mega-Church Pastor: How I Discovered the Hidden Treasures of the Catholic Church*. (Beacon Publishing, 2010), p. 28.

ST. MARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN “REBUILD. RESTORE. RENEW”

Short Report from the Town Hall Meeting
Wednesday, November 30, 2018

**Attendees: 37 adults in attendance
Meal at 6:00 p.m. Meeting started at 6:22 p.m.**

Jeff Henderson from the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of Dubuque made a presentation on endowments and shared the financial benefits that this may bring to the parish for future generations.

Town Hall meeting ended at 7:30 p.m. with a prayer led by Deacon Patrick.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Hoeger, Recording Secretary



E-MAIL FROM JEANINE & JOHN BITZAN

Jeanine is the daughter of Suzanne and James Pennington. They live in Morehead, MN. Last November 2018, Jeanine pledged to the campaign and we are so grateful for their commitment to contribute. May the Lord bless them! Below is a quote from their e-mail.

"Dear Fr. Hernandez,

My husband, John, and I would like to contribute to the St. Mary Capital Campaign: "Rebuild. Restore. Renew."

We are so grateful for our beautiful Catholic faith. We are so grateful to God for our parents, Jim and Suzanne Pennington, my grandmother, Florence Rehm Sharp, my great-grandparents George and Marie Rehm, and great-great grandparents, Thomas and Anna Monahan. Their steadfast love and faith have molded and guided my childhood and adult faith formation. I have many wonderful memories of going to church at St. Mary Parish with my Grandmother. Visiting St. Mary Catholic Cemetery is full of beautiful family members who cherished St. Mary Catholic Church and their Catholic faith.

Thank you for leading this effort! We have been truly blessed by God and all the beautiful family and friends of faith He put into our lives.

Every problem is an opportunity to invite God's children to prioritize their wealth to give glory to God. It isn't always easy, but relationship is the key!"

FAQ

WHO WILL BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

Every registered family at St. Mary Catholic Church will be asked to consider a sacrificial donation. In addition, we will approach former parishioners who continue to be connected to our parish who love this beautiful church as an icon of the Catholic presence in McGregor. We will also approach visitors that continue to contribute for support.

WHEN SHOULD I COMPLETE MY PLEDGE FORM?

If you are comfortable completing the enclosed pledge form, please bring it with you to the meeting. If interested, a committee member will contact you to set up a date for an in-home visit. This committee member will assist you with any questions you may have and in filling out a pledge form.

HOW CAN I FULFILL MY CONTRIBUTION?

The most common options are commitments fulfilled over the three-year pledge period or a one-time gift. Payment choices include automatic withdrawal, or cash/check. All

checks must be written to "St. Mary Capital Campaign." The parish will also accept IRA Required Minimum Distributions, gifts of stock, grain, or property and encourages parishioners considering these options to talk with their financial advisor first.

HOW REALISTIC ARE WE WITH THIS CAMPAIGN?

We have faith and hope that the Lord and our Mother, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception will guide us. She is always with us. God always provides.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THIS CAMPAIGN?

This campaign is twofold...increase parishioners giving and reach our desired goal to address all the needs of the renovation.

ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A SEPARATE ACCOUNT FOR THIS CAMPAIGN?

No. We will have a subaccount within the general account and funds will be kept separate. All monies designated "Capital Campaign" are restricted and cannot be used for general purpose or need in the parish.

HOW IS TAXA CALCULATED?

Taxa is based on all income to the parish minus gifts for National campaigns (Our Call to Share, Religious Retirement, etc.), local social concerns, Educational Endowment, and Capital campaigns for education facilities. Investment income from the Archdiocesan Deposit and Loan Fund, Educational Endowment invested in an Archdiocesan account, and the Catholic Foundation for the Archdiocese of Dubuque (CFAD) is exempt as well. Deductions from parish income include PreK-12 Faith Formation expenses, Catholic School subsidies, and 15% of any parish debt. After all those adjustments, the parish taxa obligation is 11.75% of the parish income. Taxa supports the work and ministries of the offices of the Pastoral Center. The Archdiocese partners with us and our parish/cluster staff to continue the mission of Jesus in the ministries of the Church.

HOW MANY ENVELOPE HOLDERS DO WE HAVE?

St. Mary currently has 136 envelope holders. Approximately 30% of those are non-contributors. However, St. Mary has many generous financial givers. The cost of renovation, though it might seem daunting, can be achieved by contributing an additional \$25 per week over a three year period. It is unreasonable to expect all 136 envelope holders to be able to do that. As a result, there will be a need for some to help with more as they are able. It is vital to the parish that regular contributions continue to be made and that the campaign is in addition to your weekly or monthly giving.

WHY ARE WE CONDUCTING A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

We are dedicated to our mission of providing faithful service to the larger body of Christ in the downtown neighborhoods of the city. As we look toward our future, it is imperative that we continue to live out that mission. However, we cannot successfully fulfill this assignment without adequate facilities. Our building is aging. We must be prudent in addressing our needs now to ensure we stay true to our mission. A capital campaign allows our parish to generate the necessary funding that otherwise would not be available through the operating budget.

CAN I USE THE "BUILDING FUND" ENVELOPE THAT I RECEIVE IN THE MAIL?

As of October 14, 2018 any contributions given in the golden "Building Fund" envelope found in your contribution envelope mailing will be forwarded to the Capital Campaign. The current \$80,000 debt is also being transferred to the Renovation campaign expense.

COVER PAGE PICTURE

The cover page picture is the rendering of what the church would look like once the renovation is completed. The rendering was created by Riehle Decorating, Inc. from Cresco, Iowa.

ABOUT RIEHLE DECORATING, INC.

Riehle Decorating Inc. is a fourth generation family business specializing in interior decorative renovation and restoration. They offer a full range of decorative/restorative services for churches, banks, theaters, homes, and historic buildings. Based out of beautiful northeastern Iowa, they have served clients in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, and Nebraska. They have the experience and proven expertise in all the areas of decorative building restoration that their clients need to accomplish their renovation goals and objectives.

SHORT HISTORY

Riehle Decorating was started in 1939 when Frederick Riehle painted his first church. He soon trained his son, Frederick Jr., the father of Darrell and Jerry. Darrell and Jerry Riehle have been decorating churches since they were teen-agers. Darrell and Jerry Riehle are now joined in the business by Dennis, who is Darrell's son, and Ron, who is Jerry's son.





MY PLEDGE

Name _____

Email address _____

Address _____

Preferred phone _____

City/State/Zip code _____

I/WE PLEDGE \$ _____ and/or I would like to help by _____

\$10/week for 3 years = \$1,560	\$520 / year
\$20/week for 3 years = \$3,120	\$1,040 / year
\$33/week for 3 years = \$5,000	\$1,666 / year
\$66/week for 3 years = \$10,000	\$3,333 / year
\$99/week for 3 years = \$15,000	\$5,000 / year
\$130/week for 3 years = \$20,000	\$6,667 / year

I/We would like someone from the Capital Campaign committee to make an in-home visit.

I/We do not feel it is necessary from someone from the Capital Campaign committee to make an in-home visit and have pledged the above.

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Father Nils de Jesús Hernández

Joe and Sharon Brooks, Co-chairs

Suzanne Pennington

Meaghan Schneider

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Father Nils de Jesús Hernández

Karol Nelson

Norb Hammes

Wayne Welch

Brian Young



ST. MARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN “REBUILD. RESTORE. RENEW.”

Wednesday, January 23, 2019
6:00 PM
Parish Hall

You are invited to attend a town hall meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss further details and progress regarding the St. Mary Capital Campaign. Your presence is very important! Discussion time will be available. All Faith Formation families are invited and welcome to attend and eat with our parish family.

Food will be served: Soups, Sandwiches, Salad, Carrots & Celery.

**Trinity Cluster
Campaign Messenger
St. Mary Catholic Church**
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Cluster Website: www.trinitycluster.com

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St. Mary Catholic Church Capital Campaign Prayer

O Mother of Mercy, we beseech you now to hear our prayer and
to obtain for us of your Divine Son the favor that we so earnestly request to bless our parish family
so that we may be open to your Son Jesus Christ.

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son
while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven.

Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of our petition if it be the Divine Will.
St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, we entrust our Capital Campaign "Rebuild, Restore, Renew"
under your loving protection and inspiration for the glory and praise of our God.
We ask this through Your beloved Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.