

St. Mary
Capital Campaign

Rebuild.
Restore.
Renew.





CAMPAIGN MESSENGER

TRINITY CLUSTER

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

June 21, 2019

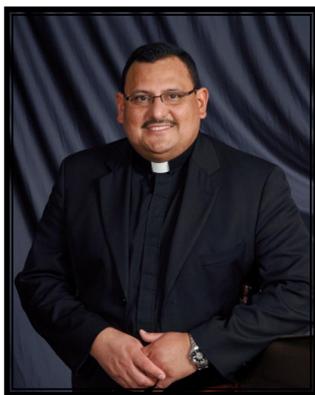
Dear Parishioner,

I am pleased to present to you the fourth 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 yet made your pledge, I 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.

In this newsletter, we are including first, an interview that was conducted by Joseph Brooks with Al Goldsmith regarding how St. Mary Catholic Church has been an integral part of his spiritual journey even after Marjorie has gone to her eternal home. Second, an article written by Deacon Joseph Sevcik regarding beauty. Deacon Joseph says that "Beauty is not merely functional. Beauty is the glory of Heaven shining through the Earth." This is an interesting description of beauty from the eyes of history and Catholic tradition. Third, we are including a reprint of the estimates of the cost of the entire renovation that was published in the first Newsletter.

Finally, the cover page is dedicated to say THANK YOU to the many volunteers who dedicated their time and talent to almost five decades of Bingo at St. Mary Catholic Church which comes to an end on June 23, 2019. WE THANK all past and present volunteers specifically: Norb Hames (director of Bingo), Steve Weipert, Sue Pennington, Roger Henkels, Karol Nelson, Julie Breckler, Tom Giese, Ron Hefner, Theresa Lang, Joe Milewsky, Kent Pfeiffer, Frank Ries, Becky Ruff and Karla Vogel. May God bless each and every one of them for their love and commitment to their parish. Please know that in the past 49 years, Bingo contributed about one million dollars to St. Mary Catholic Church. We appreciate all those who faithfully helped and those who played Bingo week after week. Many blessings and may God bless our parish family of St. Mary Catholic Church.

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



AL AND MARJORIE GOLDSMITH

In 1991, Al and Marjorie Goldsmith retired from farming and looked for a place to live in Clayton County near good fishing. They decided on a house in McGregor. The house is a Sears & Roebuck catalog house and is on the McGregor Walking Tour. They had farmed near Earlville, Iowa about eight miles east of the Field of Dreams movie site. Al and Marjorie married in 1962 after her first husband had passed away. Marjorie was Lutheran and converted to the Catholic Church. Upon arrival in McGregor, they became active in St. Mary Catholic Church. Marjorie joined the Guild and both Al and Marjorie worked at Bingo. Al made some of the furniture used in the church. He cut walnut on his property, sawed them into boards and kiln-dried them in Dubuque. They attended Mass every Sunday at St. Mary, McGregor, Iowa.

Due to Marjorie's illness, she was finally unable to come to Mass and passed away in January 2019. Every Sunday, Al would come to Mass and return home to be with her. After her death, Al moved in with his son and daughter-in-law. Every Sunday, his son drives about an hour from Delhi to bring Al to Mass in McGregor.

When asked why he comes so far to attend Mass in McGregor, Al states that "this is his church." Al has attended it for twenty-eight years. He knows people here, likes the music, and has a sense of belonging. He will be buried beside Marjorie at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in McGregor, Iowa. If Al goes to Mass some place else, he feels something is missing.

What is missing is the community of people that attend Mass: old friends, good music, familiar surroundings, and a feeling of home. The spirit of fellowship remains for him here. The fellowship that followed from working Bingo with others, making furniture for the worship service and his wife's work with the Guild.

Fellowship is also service! It is service to the community and to God. It is Time, Treasure, and Talent. Where our hearts are, there also will our treasure be.

Interview conducted on June 2, 2019 by Joseph Brooks, Co-chair of the Capital Campaign.



PRESENTATION ON STEWARDSHIP

by Jeff Henderson, O.C.

Jeff is the Stewardship Development Director from the Archdiocese of Dubuque & Executive Director, Catholic Foundation for the Archdiocese of Dubuque

Being a good steward of all God has given to us is a responsibility we share as Disciples of Christ. But what does it mean to be a "good steward?" What is expected of me if I want to be a "good steward?" On Wednesday, June 26, the Stewardship Development Director of the Archdiocese of Dubuque will join us to answer those very questions. His 30-45 minute presentation will tackle how to do that right here in McGregor and the surrounding area. We hope to see you there.



BEAUTY—MOVING A HEART TO PRAYER

By Deacon Joseph Sevcik

"I wish to create a church so beautiful that it would move even the hardest heart to prayer."

-Unknown Architect of Glastonbury Abbey¹

Beauty has the power to grasp the human soul at its core. This flows from our nature as human beings. We humans naturally strive for realities beyond ourselves. Though natural creatures, we are intrinsically ordered to the supernatural. We reach beyond ourselves in search of the infinite. We are creatures striving for transcendence, seeking meaning and purpose in our life. We ask- Why? Like the psalmist, we cry out in wonder- *What is man that you are mindful of him, and a son of man that you care for him?*² This capacity for transcendence and wonder is characteristic of humans as artists.

Catholics have a venerable tradition of building beautiful churches. We do this in accord with our natural identity as artists. Art points to realities beyond itself. As the Catechism teaches, "Created 'in the image of God,' man also expresses the truth of his relationship with God the Creator by the beauty of his artistic works. Indeed, art is a distinctively human form of expression; beyond the search for the necessities of life which is common to all living creatures, art is a freely given superabundance of the human being's inner riches."³ Art assists us in our relationship with God.

The greatest reality of all, the source of reality itself, is God himself. This fact, all of creation proclaims. *The heavens declare the glory of God.*⁴ *From Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.*⁵ Beautiful churches elevate our minds and our hearts in contemplation of God. Beauty, because it comes from God and points to Him, naturally resonates with the human heart. Thus, our church architecture and decoration are not merely functional, but are intimately helpful in bringing us to prayer.

The fullness of this truth is seen through meditation on the Incarnation. God himself glorified creation in becoming one of us. *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.*⁶ Jesus Christ, fully God and fully Man, took flesh in this world and walked among us. Our churches are meant, in the totality of their being, to depict this essential Christian truth. Through our art and architecture, prayer and preaching, fellowship and service, we ought to reflect this core conviction that God dwells among His people. Beauty is the language of this truth. Beauty is the architecture of love. Beauty is disarming, having the power to raise even the hardest of hearts to prayer.

In 988 AD, when Russia was tiring of paganism, Prince Vladimir sent representatives to examine the neighboring religions in search of a new religion for Russia. What would strike the Russians in their quest? Some of the representatives visited Hagia Sophia, a most beautiful church in Constantinople. The report of their venture speaks for itself:

And we went into the Greek lands, and we were led into a place where they serve their God, and we did not know where we were, on heaven or on earth; and do not know how to tell about this. All we know is that God lives there with people and their service is better than in any other country...⁷

Beauty is not merely functional. Beauty is the glory of Heaven shining throughout the Earth. Beauty tells the truth that the Kingdom of God is at hand. God dwells with His people.

*Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*⁸

Citations

¹ Quoted in: Longenecker, Dwight. "Beauty: The Language of Worship ~ The Imaginative Conservative." The Imaginative Conservative. May 16, 2019. Accessed June 11, 2019. <https://theimaginativeconservative.org/2016/12/beauty-language-worship-dwight-longenecker.html>.

² Psalm 8:5, NAB.

³ Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 2501.

⁴ Psalm 19:2, NAB.

⁵ Psalm 50:2, NAB.

⁶ John 1:14, RSV.

⁷ Quoted in: Graves, Dan. "We Did Not Know Where We Were | InContext." Christian History Institute. Accessed June 11, 2019. <https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/incontext/article/vladimir>.

⁸ Philippians 4:8, RSV.

CAMPAIGN CABINET ENLISTMENT [The following is a reprint from Newsletter #1]

This core of group leaders will give guidance to and drive the campaign. We will need assistance in the following areas:

- Distribution of Pledge Cards
- Organization of Work Groups
 - Restroom Renovations
 - Entrance Renovation
 - Kitchen Renovations
 - Fund Goal Signage
 - Pew Placement
- Activities
 - Auction
 - Compose Campaign song/music
 - Compose Legacy Prayer
- Community
 - Town Hall Suppers
 - Coffee and Donuts
 - Rosary before Mass
 - Consecration to Mary

OUR NEEDS

Riehle Decorating (Diocesan approved company to remodel interior of church)	\$250,000
Church Roof (50 year roof)	\$ 31,790
Repair of statue, steeples, mold	\$ 24,960
Carpet/Tile	\$ 31,800
Parish Furnace/AC (installed in 2018)	\$ 35,000
Bell System	\$ 20,000
Handicap accessible doors	\$ 16,000
Sound system	\$ 18,000
Restroom renovation	\$ 20,000
Cleaning of main entrance	\$ 30,000
Repair of stone retaining wall	\$ 29,955
Kitchen renovation	\$ 30,000
Taxa 11.75%	\$ 57,495
Campaign expenses	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Total (estimated)	\$600,000

A Town Hall meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2018 to discuss the quoted expenses and rationale for renovation. This will be an informational meeting and time will be allowed for questions. To briefly summarize the above costs are based on quotes and are only estimates, and will only increase if we delay.

The parking lot across from the church was not added to these estimates due to legal issues of outside usage by others in the community and the need for support from them.

Handicap accessibility is a national mandate to allow access for those with special needs. Our facilities are sadly lacking to accommodation. Automatic doors and restroom needs are paramount.

Restroom renovation can be done by a work group to save money. The men's restroom could be converted into the handicap accessible restroom and still allow the room to be used by both men and women by locking the door and

removing the privacy enclosure. Painting and tile replacement and repair would be minimal costs. This cost may be differed through Time/Talent estimated cost deferred \$20,000. A sign replacement could read; "Handicap Accessible / Family Restroom." Inside sign would read, "Please lock door when in use."

We were able to decrease the church roof estimate from \$100,000 to \$33,000. Due to the height and angle of the roof many roofers were not interested in quoting the job.

Carpet replacement has been a topic of discussion. The carpet needs to be replaced in the lower level of the hall, classroom area, due to water damage. The church carpet is in fair shape, and will need to be replaced in the near future. As the campaign anticipates the need, it would be prudent to include the costs at this time and possibly consider doing this while the pews are removed for remodeling.

The parish hall furnace and air conditioning was replaced in August 2018 as the old system was no longer expected to meet the needs of the coming winter. By replacing the old with the new system we are expecting to decrease heating costs by two thirds.

The Bell system has not been functioning for a number of years. This was a legacy donated in 1988 and is a beautiful reminder of the time of day and the presence of the church in our community.

The sound system within the church needs to be replaced to allow for better acoustics throughout the worship space.

Cleaning of the main entrance involves removing the stucco plaster from the rock wall. This cost may be deferred through Time/Talent estimated cost deferred \$30,000.

The stone retaining wall is bulging at the center and ready to fall. Work has been scheduled but delayed by the finding of cables buried along the wall.

The kitchen needs an industrial dishwasher and three section sink to be in compliance with state food safety regulations. It is also an opportunity to reexamine the functional area to make it more efficient. We have a designer available to make renovation a reality.

Taxa obligation is 11.75% of the parish income. See "How is Taxa Calculated" in the FAQ section for a more detailed explanation.

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?

A committee member will be contacting 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 moved to the Renovation campaign expense.

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.

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.”

TOWN HALL MEETING

Wednesday, June 26, 2019
6:00 PM
Parish Hall

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

Food will be served.

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St. Mary Catholic Church Capital Campaign Prayer

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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.