



St. Mary
Capital Campaign

Rebuild.

Restore.

Renew.

A NIGHT OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

St. Mary Capital Campaign





CAMPAIGN MESSENGER

TRINITY CLUSTER

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

July 12, 2019

Dear Parishioner,

I am pleased to present to you the fifth Campaign Messenger. In this newsletter, we are including first, a reflection written by Deacon Joseph regarding Savoring and Silence. This reflection is going to be helpful as we get ready for "A Night of Spiritual Renewal." The deacon tells his own personal experience at the seminary and how this can be helpful in our own lives. In his article the deacon says "How can we savor life? How can we savor prayer and communion with God? To savor we must be disciplined in stillness. We must consciously and resolutely decide to be fully present to the moment. We must make it a habit and incarnate this mindfulness into our being. This is a discipline that many of us, myself included, need to re-learn and constantly practice. Everything about our contemporary life forms us in exactly the opposite way."

Second, an article written by Joseph Brooks, Co-chair of the Capital Campaign about "Stewardship: Time, Talent, and Treasure. In it Joseph reflects on the importance of uniting our efforts and utilizing what God has given us to make this campaign possible. He says, "The Church as we know it is not a building, but the community of faithful that gathers together to worship God. We do that every Sunday and welcome God into our celebration. The spirit of that celebration is reflected in the building."

Finally, at our last Town Hall meeting a question arose from the participants: how are we planning to accomplish the different projects for the campaign. I personally reflected on this question and analyzed what we plan to do. I listed two steps for the campaign. This may not be a complete list but at least is a response to what I see happening. It will require further discussion and revision of the plans as sometimes things may change. Please see page number two for these divisions.

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



SAVORING, SILENCE, AND PRAYER

A Reflection

By Deacon Joseph Sevcik

*Come away by yourselves to a lonely
place, and rest a while.*

-Mark 6:31

Every Fall at the seminary we begin our year of formation with a venerable tradition: A Five-Day Silent Retreat.

Woah. That's right. Five days of silence and prayer. When I first heard about this retreat, it seemed a bit overwhelming. Will I really be able to remain silent for five days and pray throughout the whole thing? And, to be honest, I found parts of the retreat to be extremely difficult the first time that I went through it. Silence can be difficult! These past few years, however, I have learned to savor the opportunity. Spending an extended amount of time in silence, every so often, has really helped me to be re-centered as a disciple of Jesus. These retreats have become a time of immense spiritual richness. They have been powerful moments in forming me to savor a life of prayer.

In our fast-paced lifestyles, learning to savor anything is challenging. On July 4th I was driving back to Monona from Cedar Rapids. To celebrate Independence Day, I allowed myself to stop at Dairy Queen for dinner and a Blizzard. My original plan was to eat quickly and then enjoy the Oreo and Cookie Dough Blizzard on the drive back. In reality, I finished the Blizzard before they even brought out the burger. Oops. It was delicious, but I utterly failed to savor it. How can we savor life? How can we savor prayer and communion with God? To savor we must be disciplined in stillness. We must consciously and resolutely decide to be fully present to the moment.

Remember a few weeks back at Mass, how we read about Jesus being resolutely determined to go to Jerusalem? Is our spiritual life one that is resolutely set to savor the presence of God, especially through the Sacraments? For this to be our experience, we must make this resoluteness a habit and incarnate this mindfulness into our being. This is a discipline that many of us, myself included, need to re-learn and constantly practice. Everything about our contemporary life forms us in exactly the opposite way.

Jesus had a busy life too. In the above passage at Mark 6, we are told, "For many were coming and going, and they [Jesus and the Apostles] had no leisure even to eat." But Jesus chose not to let the world enslave him. Jesus, fully one of us and always our example, made dedicated time for prayer.

Dedicating time for prayer requires discipline, and discipline is a pre-condition for true freedom. Discipline is essential for the spiritual life. It is essential for us to mark out time in our

calendar daily to pray. In seminary, we do this through the practice of a daily Holy Hour. At least one hour each and every day is dedicated to being present to God in prayer. In this hour, I generally read from the Bible, make my intercessory prayers, and sit in quiet stillness. Sometimes I pray the rosary as well. However, savoring the silence is one aspect that though difficult, is essential to have as part of the Holy Hour. In your life, perhaps start at 15, 20, or 30 minutes a day? Or just jump all-in! This hour from 6am to 7am is my favorite. This practice frees us from an otherwise enslavement to our hectic lives. Dedicated prayer time

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the
throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and
find grace to help in time of need.*

~Hebrews 4:16

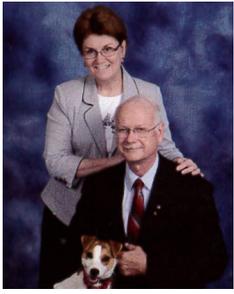
allows us daily for a deep and meaningful encounter and communion with the Lord. Why do we so often allow our souls to be starved?

What do we experience over time through living this spiritual devotion? One benefit is that it gives us the time and opportunity to grow in self-knowledge. Otherwise, we often rush around so much without having any serious time for needed reflection. To be renewed in our spiritual life we must come to know ourselves. Self-knowledge leads to self-gift. The practice of silence helps us to grow in self-knowledge. Silence has the ability to slowly disarm us. Our souls are able to be stilled and become accessible for honest self-reflection. We can accept the love of God in these moments as well as process through the promptings of our conscience. Silence can help us deal with what needs to be dealt with in our heart. It allows us the chance to be honest with our self and make a firm determination to take the next step that we need to. In silence we can remember the truth of who we are, beloved sons and daughters of God who are called into ever-deeper relationship with Him.

Though we can pray individually in this way, it is also important for the parish to support each other together in this endeavor. Therefore, I invite you to intentionally set aside some time on Wednesday, July 24th for Fellowship and a Parish Holy Hour. We'll have Eucharistic Adoration, Praise and Worship, and time for Silent Prayer. Let us accept all the gifts God has in store for us as we seek to be ever-renewed by coming together as a parish to pray.

*For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,
"In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."*

-Isaiah 30:15



STEWARDSHIP: TIME, TREASURE AND TALENT

By Joseph Brooks

In the 1980's there was a meeting of Catholic religious leaders in Chicago to try and address the growing shortage of priests and religious. Mother Teresa was a guest speaker. Everyone was excited to hear her speak. Everyone wore their best clothes and sat at tables with linen table cloths and fine china. No one noticed the poorly dressed woman sitting in a corner eating on the floor. When it came time for Mother Teresa to speak, she rose and went to the microphone. She said rather than giving a long speech, she would entertain questions. The first question asked was, "How do we fix the problems in the Church?" She answered, "Love and obedience."

The Church as we know it is not just a building, but also the community of the faithful that gathers together to worship God. We do this every Sunday and welcome God into our celebration. The spirit of that celebration is reflected in the building. I have visited many Catholic homes to bring Communion to the home-bound, and have never seen holes where insulation was put in. It did not take 45 years for the walls to be painted. The homes were nicely decorated. Not even the nursing homes have holes in the walls. They would be shut down if they did. United together, we need to take care of our church.

Stewardship is Time, Treasure and Talent. Notice the "and." As Catholics we are required to do all three. While we do determine what is reasonable to contribute based on our means, we are not in good faith allowed to say 'no'. There was a time when the religious community staffed hospitals, schools, and parishes to provide services at a reduced expense to the laity. But those days are in the past. As a faith community, we must step up.

I have asked a number of people to be part of the Campaign leadership. To this date everyone I have asked has refused. Some have cited disagreement on the cost.

But, what would it cost to build our church today? Much more than \$600,000. In 1878 when the Kinney street church burned, the parishioners said they could not raise the funds needed, but the church was built. The cost in 1878 was no less than it would be today if adjusted for inflation. In 1975 Father Hirsch faced the same problems with the renovation. But the renovation was made and the new hall was added.

Some have said that we can do some of the work ourselves, but the signup sheets distributed at the first Town Hall had only two names on one sheet and no names on the others.

Some have said that we need to have the work done professionally. But that raises the cost and in some instances the work can be done by us, if we work together. Right now

we have struggled because many of us have not yet stepped up to help with time and talent, nor with pledges. Let us be bold now in supporting our parish with our commitment.

I realize that there are certain frustrations, especially with the slow pace at which renovations have begun. Some of the delays however are unavoidable. Bids and estimates are slow to arrive and the decision to proceed goes through the Finance Council and other committees in the parish, before the project begins. The Capital Campaign helps organize and promote, but does not sign the checks nor give the final approval. Fortunately, some projects have been completed and some are coming soon (see Father's timeline below). We are making progress.

At Wednesday Mass, Ashley and Adam Simon's son is an altar boy. He reverently and gladly assists at the daily Masses in all three parishes in our Trinity Cluster. He is very proud to wear the alb and it is a joy to see him in action. At this important moment in the life of our parish, let us boldly step forward in support to have a vibrant spiritual home for children like the Simon's son. Let us catch his joyful spirit of faith and seek a fresh breath of the Spirit in our community.

In that spirit we have begun saying the Rosary before Mass as she is our Mother and Patroness of our Parish. I have information available for the Consecration to Mary which is a beautiful devotion and has been a great benefit to the spiritual lives of many. I will also be calling around to elicit help for projects and hope you can help me out.

Jesus said where two or more are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst. We are a Christian community. Jesus is with us in this campaign. Let us boldly accept His call to support our parish as we Rebuild, Restore, and Renew.

FOUR PHASES FOR THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Rebuild • Restore • Renew

As your pastor, I am very grateful to you for your continued financial support to your parish. I am aware that the parish had major capital campaigns in the past. Efforts and cooperation of all parishioners made the parish hall and the carpet projects possible. The history of this parish is remarkable because of the commitment of all its parishioners. I encourage you to be open as we conduct the Capital Campaign "Rebuild, Restore, Renew." I am very grateful to the Campaign Committee and Finance Council for their ambitions to continue with our campaign. The Capital Campaign at St. Mary Catholic Church officially launched on October 14, 2018. We stated that the aim was to raise the funds required to repair and replace the aging facilities in our worship center and hall. Our financial goal is to raise \$600,000 over a three year period. Our spiritual goal is to renew the community of the faithful. Time and Talent will

also be needed to accomplish these goals. 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.

Step Two: Renew

This is an on-going Spiritual Renewal of the entire parish community. We are always in constant need of a life of conversion. We are constantly moving forward in our journey of faith as Disciples of Christ trying to live our lives as Jesus calls us to be committed to our families, parish and his mission to build God's Kingdom. How is this going to become a reality in our parish?

Increase hospitality

Work groups for effective results

Pray the Holy Rosary before Mass

Pray the Capital Campaign Prayer

Capital Campaign Prayer Legacy

Work together to change the spirit of the parish "not their project but our project" as ONE community of believers.

Step Two: Rebuild & Restore

Phase #1 (already completed)

Repair the retaining wall and install new steps

New roof in the parish hall and courtyard

Resurface and seal of both parking lots north and south

Phase #2 (work is being done)

Power wash cleaning of the church

Fix the towers of the church

Fix the statue of Mary

Electric doors of the south of the church for handicap accessibility

Fix the rest of the retaining walls for security reasons. This needs more work than anticipated.

Clean and fix inside of the main entrance of the church

Cut pews and adjust for funerals and baptismal font

Restore restrooms

Secure stone by parish hall for security reasons as it may collapse and make major damage

Phase #3 (spring 2020)

New roof in the church

Phase #4 (fall 2021 or 2022)

Refurbish inside of the church

New Carpet

New sound system

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 tax 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.



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 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.



Wednesday, July 24

A NIGHT OF *Spiritual Renewal*

"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart." ~Jeremiah 29:12-13



Let us come together in prayer as a parish for a night of Praise, Worship, and Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesday, July 24th at St. Mary Catholic Church, McGregor.
All are Invited!

6pm - Dinner in the Courtyard Room • 6:30pm - Parish Holy Hour

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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.