

Hello, my name is Bob Wentz. Father has asked me to share some information about the Diocesan capital campaign, Living the Mission. The LIVING THE MISSION campaign is the campaign that Deacon John introduced in his homily a few weeks ago but we understand there is some confusion between this campaign and the Diocesan Annual appeal. So just to clarify the Annual Appeal and the Living the Mission campaign are both Diocesan programs but they are two different programs with different objectives. Dollars raised in the Annual Appeal are used to fund monthly expenses, the funds are used to “keep the lights on”, while the dollars raised by the capital campaign, Living the Mission, that I am speaking about today, are used to fund larger longer term projects. It’s like the difference of paying your monthly utility bills vs setting money aside in a college or retirement fund, or to replace a car or do a kitchen/bathroom remodel.

So what I would really like to share with you today is my personal experience in working on this campaign.

From the very beginning my focus in working on this campaign has been on funding the projects. Beginning several months ago when Father Andrzej asked me if I would join our parish committee to work on the Diocesan Living the Mission Campaign, before I said Yes I said, well it depends on what project or how the Parish Share portion of the campaign funds are going to be used. I already knew I could support the Diocesan projects but I want to confirm I could also support the plan for the parish share. Father reported that the parish share should be set aside in a reserve fund for a future building project at OLBH. Well that was a plan I could support so I was hooked in joining the committee.

So when I began to make campaign presentations to families in our parish, my focus was still around funding the projects. But after a few weeks of reflecting on the campaign prayer, which is on the bottom right corner of the laminated sheet in the pews, I began to experience a conversion. The very first line of the prayer began to resonate, and it reads...

Lord, we turn to you with joy in our hearts, for all that we have and are comes from you.

This line is all about stewardship, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. I began to connect this to the Bishop’s vision of rather than being a Mission Diocese, being a Diocese with a Mission and to the Bishop’s pastoral letter which articulates a priority plan for the Diocese and summarizes the mission statement in three simple phrases right here on the back cover.....

Reconcile..... Make Disciples Live the Mission.....

Stewardship is an important element of Intentional Discipleship and I began to understand that the LIVING THE MISSION campaign is not about funding projects, it's about becoming, No not becoming, but being a diocese with a mission, it's about intentional discipleship and living the mission. It took me several weeks of reflection on the campaign prayer for me to make that circle.

Now, I'm not suggesting that it's not important to understand the projects included in the campaign or how the funds are to be used but that when you consider your participation, that it's viewed/considered through the lens of stewardship. In fact in two weeks there will be a reception after each mass with an opportunity for you to ask questions and learn the specifics of each of the projects included in the campaign. Please plan to attend and come with your questions.

Some families have already been visited by members of the Committee and we really want to thank you for your support a response. Our parish goal is \$525,000 and we are already over 70% of the way to the goal with a bit less than \$150,000 left to go, then we are into the 60% parish share. For families that have not yet been contacted by a committee member, there is a letter with a pledge card that will be mailed over the next couple of weeks, so if you receive a letter, please prayerfully consider your participation in the campaign. If we miss someone in the mailing, know that towards the end of the month pledge cards will be made available at Mass so everyone will have an opportunity to participate.

Since this campaign is to fund larger longer term projects, pledges can be made for up to five years. A \$50 a month pledge for five years amounts to a \$3,000 pledge, every pledge will help us across the goal line, again, we are already 70% of the way there but need everyone's discipleship to meet the goal.

So, I really encourage you and invite you to prayerfully consider your participation in the Diocese or Rapid City **being** a "Diocese with a Mission".