



November 24, 2019

### Campaign Update

We are almost ready to begin the next phase of our building project. Our first phase seems to be a great success. We were able to install the requisite retention ponds, resurface all our lots and drives, add a new lot, trim our entrances for smoother access, and add new lights throughout the parking lot. We have had folks step up and help with the landscaping in our islands which have kept them looking nice this year. Thank you for helping to keep our campus beautiful. The new configuration for our lots has made traffic flow more smoothly and allowed our entire campus to be accessible, even during school hours, by allowing traffic to flow between the north and south lots. This has really helped with hospitality to guests who no longer find themselves trapped on one side of the campus during school hours. It has also allowed more parking spots for guests during the day. We ran into a couple small kinks along the way. You may remember that last fall was extremely wet, and we had difficulty drying out the clay under the new lot. We ended up having to use some lime to stabilize that ground, which was an unexpected cost, and we had a couple of spots where the asphalt base was in such bad shape that it had to be reestablished. These two items were unexpected costs which raised our costs. We made the decision at that time to also spend some of our building maintenance funds to finish surfacing all the parking areas since it would be cheaper to do so while all the equipment was here on campus.

Our second phase will begin in 2020, which coincides with the parish's 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We hope that the project will be completed next year, but it will take almost the entire year to do so. The second phase includes reorienting the interior of the church, turning the cry room into the music practice room and converting the narthex, confessional, and the bathrooms into storage and a work sacristy. The air handling units will be redesigned so that air can travel quietly and freely through the entire space. We will also have a new sound system that better suits the space and helps those who have hearing aids. The area where the tabernacle now sits will be opened for the new entrance in the nave of the church. The wall behind St. Joseph and the organ will be opened and will allow windows to be installed so that families with fussy children can still see and hear Mass from the new narthex. The new narthex will allow overflow seating for around 100 and will also include a storage room for chairs, new and larger bathrooms, as well as the vestry for the priest and deacon before Mass. The exterior of the church will mirror the roof lines of the current church and create a more unified entrance for all attending Mass. The design team has been hard at work choosing the finishes that will give the entire space a unified and sacred feel. As the church is being renovated and expanded, the connector between Nolan Hall and the school will be constructed and allow our youth safe

access during school and Religious Education classes. This is a lot of work and is the bulk of our campaign project.

We knew when we began that the first phase of construction always comes with some unexpected items that typically add to the cost. While the first phase was not off by much, we could already tell that our second phase would cost more than what we first planned. As you may be aware, Nativity parish has been undergoing a similar renovation to ours and we were able to have their contractors reexamine our projected cost. Their number came back higher than our current estimate. We have benefited from a good economy for a number of years and this has been a blessing but with that blessing also comes a downside which is that construction costs have increased dramatically since we first began our project. Competition is down and prices are up due to demand and tariffs that no one expected. All this has contributed to the second phase of the project being \$600,000 above what was projected. That is certainly a big number, but unfortunately it is what we have been experiencing throughout the archdiocese. All projects are coming in over budget and we are no different. It's disappointing but not insurmountable and within our reach to achieve. It's our first real hurdle that we have been surprised by in our project.

The good news is that our campaign has been doing great. We are not quite two-thirds of the way into our campaign, yet we have more than two-thirds of the pledged funds collected. In fact, even with the overage in additional costs, we have collected enough that we already have over half of the funds on hand for this second phase. We do, however, need to have the additional money pledged. We think this is possible and attainable. We will be extending the campaign by an additional year so pledges can be paid through 2021. If you have given to our campaign, I encourage you to consider extending your pledge up to one-third of what you have already pledged. If you were not able to give when we began the campaign, or have moved in since we have begun, I hope you will consider supporting our efforts to raise this additional money to cover unexpected expenses. I am very confident we can do this as our parish and community has been blessed over the years. The commitment and follow through of pledges have been better than we hoped. In the coming weeks we will begin asking households if they are able to make an additional pledge to our campaign. With all of us working together, we can make it happen and enhance an already beautiful church.

We hope to bid out our final phase before Christmas and begin work in February. With your help, and God's blessing, we can consecrate the church by the end of 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Aaron Jenkins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fr. Aaron Jenkins