

Pastor's Corner
May 11, 2007
Capital Campaign Report

I am pleased to report that "Sharing Our Blessings, Building Our Future" campaign is now about to enter our redemption/follow-up phase. It is now an appropriate time for me to give you an early report on how we are doing as a parish family.

Our first reception/early fund raising effort started March 26, 2007. It was followed up by 17 other receptions and two weeks of Sunday appeals. The goal of the past two months has been dedicated to giving every parishioner the opportunity to get informed about the needs this campaign addresses. We are now in the second month of a thirty-six month campaign. This is now the most important time of the campaign! It is time for every family to inform the parish through their individual pledge card of their level of sacrificial support. It is this information that will allow our leadership groups to continue to plan for and meet the goals established in this campaign. We are ready to move forward but can only proceed when we have the necessary pledges.

We have anticipated that the monies needed to achieve our goals will be coming in over a 34-month period from individual families in many different forms of payment. It is up to each family to let us know how and when they plan to make their contribution. There is complete flexibility, we simply ask that you inform us what works best for you. Please remember that no payment is necessary with the submittal of your pledge card.

We have already heard from 329 families, this represents 16% of our parish, I am now asking that the remaining 84% let us know what they will be able to pledge over the next three years.

I am very hopeful that the majority of our parishioners will provide a response through the completion of a three-year pledge card by May 25. This will allow the building committee and other parish leadership to continue working on the facilities additions as scheduled and reported in our campaign literature. It will take true sacrificial gifts and pledges over the entire three-year period to achieve all of our goals.

Each week we will continue to report the status of our "Sharing Our Blessings, Building Our Future" campaign thru the parish bulletin, web page, and information displayed in the Narthex. May 25 ends our first commitment phase. All families who have not submitted a pledge card or contacted the campaign by May 25 will receive a follow-up contact from volunteers in our parish. That contact may come in the form of a phone call, letter, personal visit or a combination of these forms. Your timely submission of your sacrificial pledge prior to May 25 will reduce the amount of time spent by volunteers and is greatly appreciated. It also gives us the opportunity to plan for the early construction of our facility additions.

So how are we doing? I would like to start off by thanking those who have led this campaign with substantial financial gifts and pledges. We need them and many more to

achieve our goals. As our campaign continues over the next 34 months the parish will report several key indicators of progress in this campaign.

The following data will give you some idea of the types of gifts and pledges we have already received as well as the number of families that have already responded.

Total Number of families currently responding: 329 (16%) our goal (100%)

Total Number of gifts or pledges: 269

Total Number of 3-year pledges: 140

Break down of gifts or pledges over \$5,000: Total = 113

	100,000 or More	30,000	20,000	15,000	10,000	7,500	5,000
Gifts or Pledges	2	1	6	4	17	17	66

After May 25th the Dollar amounts of all the above totals will also be reported.

All of the leadership groups of our parish join me in asking you to support this campaign by submitting your pledge card at this time. Your sacrificial commitment, no matter how large, helps shape the future of the Catholic faith in our parish, deanery, and diocese. I have personally made a three-year pledge of \$8,000.00. I believe there are many who have been financially blessed within our parish family who can make similar and larger gifts. Only your personal generosity can ensure that all the goals of this campaign are met. Since only 2 persons have pledged over \$100,000 I would like to challenge those who are able to match that level of giving. I will pledge an additional \$1,000.00 to my current pledge for each of the next 3 individual pledges that exceed \$100,000 dollars. I wish I could do more. If you would like to do more just let us know!

The goal of this report is to encourage you to do what you can to help St. Francis reach all the goals outlined in our three-year capital campaign. "Many hands make for light work" our success depends on everyone lending a hand. We still have a long way to go, but we have made a good start. Additional information or help in making your pledge is always available. Please call the office if we can be of some assistance. It is never too late to make your pledge or to increase your commitment.

The sacrifices we make together as a parish family will prepare the way for God's continued blessing on our parish and larger community. I encourage you to give with a cheerful heart reflecting the joy and good news of this Easter Season.

In Christ – United in faith, love and service.

Fr. Mike