



# Nativity of Mary Parish Capital Campaign Newsletter

10017 E 36th Terr Independence, MO 64052

(816)353-2184 [www.NativityofMary.org](http://www.NativityofMary.org)

Volume 1:2B

October 2021

## Letter From Fr. Bob



I'm excited about our upcoming campaign to raise money to replace the windows on our school and to pay down our parish debt. We will be able to

provide a better learning environment for our children, and paying down part of our debt will allow us to expand our programs and services to our community.

St. Teresa of Avila reminds us "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless people now." We are the bodies that Christ uses to build God's Kingdom here on earth. Without our willingness to share our gifts of time, talent and treasure, we would be

limiting what God wants to do through us. If you are not yet involved with the campaign, I encourage you to consider sitting on one of the six different teams. No prior experience or skills are necessary. See page 3 for more information on how to get involved.

**There are no guarantees when conducting a capital campaign. We take this step believing this is where God wants us to go. Thank you for stepping out in faith to help our parish manage our facilities, money, and ministries more responsibly.**

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob Stone*

Fr. Bob Stone  
Pastor

This newsletter originally was mailed in February, 2021 and has valuable information about the campaign. All references to old dates and events have been deleted and replaced with updated information

## Why a Campaign Now?

Our 65-year old school building is well-constructed and has served our parish



well. However, its windows and the glass blocks above them no longer keep the heat in and the cold out. Some windows are in such bad shape

they are in danger of falling out of their tracks when opened, potentially

falling on a student or shattering on the floor. The estimated cost of replacing windows and glass blocks with high efficiency larger windows is approximately \$350,000.

Even though we recently paid off the debt for our current church building, we are in debt to the diocese for around \$900,000. David Townley, our past business manager, failed to pay state withholding taxes and diocesan payroll benefits like medical,

unemployment, disability insurance and pensions for our employees during a 7-year period. Because the Diocese paid the state pit back taxes, we didn't have to pay interest and penalties for the delinquent taxes, but now we owe the Diocese. We are paying down this debt at a rate of \$1,000 to \$2,000 a month. This debt is keeping us from expanding our ministries and our services to our community.

## CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE APPROVES PRAYER, GOAL & LOGO



Nearly 25 members on the Campaign Steering Committee met to direct the campaign and to ensure that it reflects the needs and culture of our parish. After much discernment, the Committee made the following decisions. The Campaign Spiritual Formation Team composed and recommended a campaign prayer that will guide us through

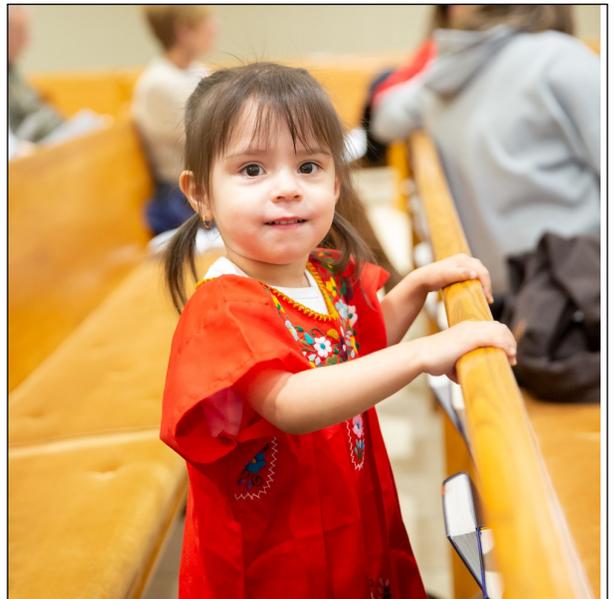
the campaign. **The Steering Committee approved the prayer** with a minor edit and thanked the team for their work. (See prayer on page one) The prayer will be recited at Mass and during church meetings. Families are encouraged to recite the prayer in their homes. It is important that all of us keep prayer at the center of this campaign. We want the campaign to be more a spiritual effort than a financial one.

**The Steering Committee set a campaign goal of \$750,000.** The December 2019 feasibility study indicated that our church has a good chance of raising this amount with a quality campaign based in prayer, large member engagement, and good information provided to our parishioners.

**The Public Relations Team recommended a campaign logo. After good discussion and some edits, the committee approved it.** The logo appears in the newsletter masthead on page one and will accompany all campaign communications.

### Campaign Commitment Weekend Set For Dec 11 - 12, 2021

At the end of November, each household will receive a commitment packet in the mail. The packet will include a commitment card to be filled out and returned to the parish at Masses on Commitment Weekend or mailed in prior to the weekend. Families will be asked to make a three-year commitment. We are encouraging all families to participate at a level you are comfortable with.



## Campaign Q&A

Have a question you want addressed, email it to [Bill@SPandR.consultants](mailto:Bill@SPandR.consultants).

### Q: What is a Capital Campaign?

A church may conduct a capital campaign to raise money for a special project that is outside of the ordinary annual budget. Members will be asked to pray over the next few months to discern what God is asking of them in support of this campaign. To raise the money needed it will take great

faith, much prayer, and sacrifice. On Commitment Weekend, members will be asked to submit their financial commitment indicating the amount they plan to contribute over the next 3 years of the campaign. This is not a contract but a covenant between you and God. Commitments can be changed at any time by contacting the parish office. These commitments will allow the parish leadership to project the amount the parish will raise and develop of budget for the projects.

Continued on page 4

## Campaign Teams Begin Their Work!

*We are still looking for volunteers.* If you have a couple of hours to share and want to be more involved in the life our faith family, volunteer for one of the teams. Most teams will meet one or two times between now and the middle of December. Call one of the listed team leaders to get involved. No special skills or experience needed.

### The six teams are:

**Spiritual Formation:** Assist the parish to focus on making the decision to make a pledge to the campaign more a spiritual decision than a financial one, focusing on how God wants each of us to use our gifts to build His Kingdom. Do you have a great appreciation for prayer, we need your help. (Donna Arnone, donna@arnoneco.com)

**Dialogue Events:** Provide opportunities for parishioners to gather with parish leadership to ask questions and raise concerns. This team needs people to help organize the events. (Carol Morris, carol@kcfsi.com)

**Public Relations:** A good pledge to a campaign is one that is made with a lot of good information. The PR teams helps to get information out and to generate excitement among parishioners regarding the campaign. This is a good team for someone who is creative. (Bill Cordaro, Bill@SPandR.consulting)

**Children & Youth:** Instilling in our children and youth the notion that all that we have and all that we are, are gifts from God, is the focus of this team. They will be working with the school and youth program to encourage involvement in the campaign and for the children and



youth to appreciate their giftedness. Like working with children and youth? You belong here. (Nicole McGee nmcgee@phoenixfamily.org or Grace Arnone, gracearnone@att.net)

**Thanks & Recognition:** This team's responsibility is to design a way to show the parish's appreciation for the sacrifices parishioners are making to support the campaign. People who appreciate the power of the words "Thank You" would fit very well on this team. (Cindy Mosbauer, mtmhouse@sbcglobal.net)

**Calling:** Two weeks prior to Commitment Weekend, this team will be calling every parish household to; 1) ask if parishioners received the campaign commitment packet in the mail, 2) if they have any questions, and 3) remind parishioners to bring their commitment packets to Mass with them on Commitment Weekend, Dec. 11-12, 2021. Do you like to talk to people? This team is for you. Training will be provided. (Mary Ann McClure, mapmclure@aol.com or Mary Vitt, maryvitt0324@yahoo.com)

## You're Invited to a Special Event!

**We want you to know the facts and give you opportunity to ask questions.** Attend one of the upcoming Campaign Dialogue Events and you will learn:

- why we need to replace the windows in the school now and what the cost will be;
- how we got into debt and what systems are in place to prevent future debt;
- and answers to any other questions you may have.

**Fr. Bob and representatives from the Facilities and Finance Committees will be there to address your questions.**

We have selected a couple of weekends to conduct these important informational events. They will take place after the Masses on the weekends of October 30-31 and November 13-14, 2021, and will last for about 30 minutes.

These events are open to the entire parish and school communities. For more information, contact Carol Morris at carol@kcfsi.com or 816-721-3409.

Come with your questions or concerns or just to learn more about the campaign and our concerns about the windows and our debt.

# Nativity of Mary Parish

10017 E 36th Terr

Independence, MO 64052

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Capital Campaign  
Commitment Weekend  
December 11 - 12, 2021

## Campaign Q&A Continued from page 2

### **Q: Who is SP&R?**

SP&R, Stewardship Partners & Resources, is the firm out of Kansas City that conducted the Feasibility Study and will continue to assist with our fall 2021 campaign. Its president and the consultant working with us is Bill Cordaro. For the past 15 years he has been working with churches like ours, helping them with stewardship education, annual giving and capital campaigns. Bill was once the Director for Youth & Campus Ministry for our diocese.

### **Q: What can we expect from the campaign in the coming two months?**

We know making a commitment to the capital campaign will be a sacrifice for our members. We are encouraging everyone to begin praying now, asking God to guide you in your decision. It is important that this discernment process is as much a spiritual process as it is a financial one. Together we will reflect on what it means to be good stewards of God's gifts, knowing that these gifts are to be used to build God's Kingdom on earth.

We are all asked to do our part:

1. Pray for guidance as you discern how God wants to use your resources to support the ministry of our parish.

2. Volunteer to help with the campaign by participating on one of the six different campaign teams listed on page 3.
3. Attend one Dialogue Event after the Masses on October 30-31 and November 13-14, 2021, .
4. Read all the campaign communications.
5. Speak with fellow parishioners and family about the campaign.
6. Pray for our parish leadership, asking the Holy Spirit to continue to guide them in our decision-making process.

### **Q: Can we designate for which project we want our money to go?**

Yes, if you prefer to direct your donation to the windows or to reducing the debt, just indicate your preference on the commitment card.

### **Q: If I make a commitment to the campaign but can't fulfill it, what happens?**

If for any reason you need to change the level of your commitment to the campaign, just contact Kelsey in the parish office and she will change your level.

**Submit your questions to [Bill@SPandR.consultants](mailto:Bill@SPandR.consultants).**