

Dear Friends,

Our gracious Lord has blessed us abundantly and, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we have grown together, evolving into the giving and caring community of faith we are today.

Through our Pastoral Plan, *Encounter that Leads to Transformation*, we have experienced Jesus Christ in a more intentional way, and developed a roadmap for a vibrant and secure future for our diocese. In this spirit, we have launched the *Encountering Christ* campaign to benefit parishes and important diocesan ministries. The campaign goal of \$85 million will allow us to fulfill our mission as we outlined in the Pastoral Plan.

St. Luke Catholic Church will benefit from *Encountering Christ*, and has a goal of \$1,100,000. Of this amount, \$344,000 will remain at St. Luke to meet locally identified needs.

Please take a moment to review the impact *Encountering Christ* will have in both St. Luke and our diocese.



Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez
Bishop of Austin



Reverend John Guzaldo
Pastor, St. Luke Catholic Church



ST. LUKE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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St. Luke Catholic Church Temple



“So we, though many, are one body in Christ.”

~ Rom 12:5

Encountering Christ

The Diocese of Austin is a thriving and growing community of more than 500,000 brothers and sisters in Christ. Our faith-filled presence has had a profound influence on Central Texas, and we continue to welcome more and more faithful to our parishes and missions each year.

Our diocese has seen many changes over the last 70 years. In the last dozen years alone, the number of Catholics in our area has grown by more than 25 percent. To address the challenges and opportunities these changes have created, the diocese spent a year praying about, reflecting upon and discussing a vision for our future. This year of discernment resulted in *Encounter that Leads to Transformation*, our Pastoral Plan inviting all members of our diocese to a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ, leading to renewal and transformation of ourselves, our homes, our ministries and our community.



Photo courtesy of Joshua Guenther

Strengthened by prayer, *Encountering Christ* allows us — in a spirit of stewardship and unity — to build a vibrant and secure future for the Diocese of Austin.

This campaign will raise a minimum of \$85 million to fulfill the vision of our Pastoral Plan and share in:

- Supporting Our Clergy
- Strengthening Parishes
- Emerging Disciples
- Embracing Discipleship



\$12 million to support our clergy

The men who dedicate their lives to serving us need our support at all stages of their journey. By supporting our clergy from seminary through retirement, we will encourage seminarians and priests to experience the fullness of their vocation, lifting them up as they help us consider and live out our own calling.



\$14 million to embrace discipleship

Fostering encounters with Jesus Christ leads to a deeper engagement that will transform our ministry, resulting in true missionary discipleship. Witnessing our faith is an essential part of Catholic-Christian discipleship.



\$20 million for emerging disciples

Our responsibility as Catholics is to ensure future generations of disciples are well-formed, prepared and excited to embrace and share their faith with our world. We continually seek to support the spiritual development of our children and young adults as well as engage them in educational and formational opportunities.

\$35.5 million to strengthen parishes



Our diocese benefits from the diversity of our 123 parishes and missions, which are urban and rural, small and large, multilingual, with schools and without. Given the critical role of parishes, ensuring their strength and sustainability is of the utmost importance.

Each parish in the diocese is rooted in the church but has its own identity and charism — and unique needs. *Encountering Christ* will have a significant impact on parishes, with \$22.5 million of the

campaign's \$85 million goal remaining in parishes to address local needs. If we meet our campaign goal at St. Luke, we will receive \$344,000.

St. Luke is a generous, faithful community that seeks to live out the Catholic faith and extend Christ's message of love and compassion to everyone we meet. Our church was founded as a mission in 1969 when Bishop Louis Reicher established a new parish here in Temple. In the nearly 50 years since then, our parish has seen a vast growth in membership and a rapid expansion of facilities.

To continue serving our growing congregation, we need to expand and renovate our facilities. Specifically, we need to renovate the religious education building and add a playground for our youngest members. In addition, we need to continue paying back our parish's debt to ensure that as faithful stewards we can invest our resources in ministries that allow our community to encounter Christ.

\$100,000 toward renovating the religious education building

The number of families participating in religious education at St. Luke has expanded in recent years. Unfortunately, our religious education building is beginning to show its age and cannot adequately serve this growing group. Renovating the building will ensure that St. Luke has a facility truly worthy of forming disciples and sharing our faith with future generations.

\$40,000 toward constructing a playground

More and more young children are coming to St. Luke with their families and being introduced to our faith during a key moment in their lives. We need to build a playground so that we can fully support our children's physical and social growth in addition to serving their spiritual needs.

\$40,000 toward new signage

The current signage at St. Luke is in desperate need of an update. New electronic signage will better advertise our church and its parish activities, mass times, and other important news to parishioners and passing cars on HK Dodgen Loop.

\$164,000 toward paying down parish debt

In recent years, St. Luke has had to take on debt to ensure our facilities and ministries are able to adequately serve our growing congregation. However, this debt is threatening to divert resources away from critical ministries designed to guide our community in encountering Christ. Paying back this debt will relieve the financial strain on our church and allow more of our resources to be used for spreading Christ's message within and beyond our parish.

AN INVITATION

Let us reflect on the many blessings the Lord has given us. Recognizing that all of our material goods are gifts from the Lord, we are asked in the Gospel to give back a portion of these gifts in thanksgiving for God's generosity and goodness to us.

Your gift is an opportunity to leave a legacy for the Catholic Church in Central Texas. Scripture tells us that Christian stewardship goes beyond giving of our surplus. It is a gift made from our substance.

It is in this spirit of Christian stewardship that we undertake this extraordinary campaign of *Encountering Christ*.