



DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

St. Francis Xavier Parish is participating in *One Church, Many Disciples*, along with every church in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. This first ever major campaign will build a Shrine for Blessed Stanley Rother, support faith formation ministries, and strengthen local parishes, including St. Francis Xavier. We join with faithful from across the archdiocese who are also helping to ensure our local Church is strong and vibrant for generations to come.

As an archdiocese, we form a faith community of 200,000 Catholics in central and western Oklahoma; we truly are *One Church, Many Disciples*! With the Beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother, each of us has the opportunity to share in his legacy. What an occasion to live Jesus' call to missionary discipleship.

Please take a moment to review the impact *One Church, Many Disciples* will have on St. Francis Xavier. This campaign has my full support and, as your pastor, I hope you will embrace this opportunity here at St. Francis Xavier.



Rev. Joseph M. Irwin

OUR PARISH ROOTS



On November 14th, 1893, Fr. Joseph Beck celebrated the first Mass in the young town of Enid. It took place in a private home, with a piano serving as the altar and 17 of the faithful in attendance. Just months after the Land Run of 1893, the Catholic community was established and growing in the Northwest corner of the Oklahoma Territory.

Six years later, Fr. Gustave Depreitere purchased lots in a field on the west side of town. A frame structure church with steeple was constructed, and Bishop Meershaert dedicated St. Francis Xavier Parish on May 1, 1900. By 1920, the parish was growing fast, and needs were great. Fr. Renier Sevens was appointed pastor and immediately began working on plans to build a new church. A new Gothic style church was built over the next two years. This church, dedicated on April 22, 1922, serves the parish home to this day.



PARISH LIFE TODAY

St. Francis Xavier Parish carries on this proud history and has become an integral part of Enid. From “Our Daily Bread” soup kitchen, which has grown into a large ecumenical ministry, serving food to the poor and needy in Enid; to St. Joseph’s Catholic School, which reopened in 2000 after being closed for a quarter century, and is once again educating the young people in the community.

St. Francis Xavier grew from a small group of Catholics worshipping in a private home, to the vibrant parish we have today. As the church facility approaches its 100th birthday, we pray God will continue to bless and strengthen us.



OUR CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

St. Francis Xavier welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City’s campaign, *One Church, Many Disciples*. This campaign will enable the building of a shrine for Blessed Stanley Rother, and will fund shared ministerial needs. Through participating in this campaign, St. Francis Xavier will raise significant funds toward needs of beloved community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve the parish campaign goal of \$870,000. St. Francis Xavier will receive 20% of all funds we raise up to the goal, totaling \$174,000. Plus, 50% of every dollar raised above the goal will be returned to St. Francis Xavier.

OUR SHARE OF THE FUNDS

Through the *One Church, Many Disciples* campaign, we will not only play a significant role in this historic moment in the Church’s history, but we will also be able to support exciting new projects at St. Francis Xavier.

With St. Francis Xavier’s share of the funds raised in this campaign effort, we will begin a project to build a new rectory for St. Francis and St. Gregory the Great Church communities. This will provide a rectory to house all the priests of Enid in one place. This provides two major benefits:

Creating community

Living in a community is healthy for priests and allows for a central place to live, meet, and share together.

Work and life separation

A new rectory will provide separate spaces for the St. Francis Xavier parish offices and the priest’s residence. This will benefit both the staff and pastor.