# DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

Saint Francis of Assisi 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 of Assisi. 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 of Assisi. This campaign has my full support and, as your pastor, I hope you will embrace this opportunity here at St. Francis of Assisi.

Rev. Carson Krittenbrink

# OUR PARISH ROOTS

In 1894, Father Iserman, a Benedictine, came to Newkirk to offer Sunday Masses in private homes of the few Catholic families here. In 1894, a store building was purchased for $150 and was moved to Newkirk by mules and a steam engine. In 1898, Father Renier Sevens, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ponca City, began construction of a new church. The present church property was purchased in 1907 for $1600, and was moved to Newkirk by a steam engine. A small house across the street from the church was rented as a rectory from until 1918. Construction of a new church was started in 1952, and was dedicated by Bishop Eugene J. McGuinness on Feb. 3, 1953. In 1954, construction began on a new rectory and convent, and in 1960, construction of a new school, gymnasium and parish hall was started. It was completed for the opening of the fall term in 1961. It was dedicated by Bishop Victor J. Reed in 1962.

## PARISH LIFE TODAY

Saint Francis of Assisi parish is a rural parish with a long history of service, faith and dedication to Our Lord. We continue that to this day. Our Knights of Columbus continue to be active in supporting the Living Hope Pregnancy center, and our Altar Guild takes care of not only the liturgical appointments for the church, but also preparing funeral dinners and helping those who are in need. Our Religious Education program and youth group currently have 23 children enrolled in them, and continue to teach them about the faith and establishing a personal relationship with God. The liturgy committee meets on a monthly basis to make sure that everything is ready for upcoming feasts, and the parish council meets once every two months to bring the ideas and comments of parishioners to the pastor. Together we are part of the body of Christ in Northern Oklahoma, and are proud to be disciples of Christ, and evangelizers of His Love!

## OUR CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

St. Francis of Assisi 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 of Assisi will raise significant funds toward needs of beloved community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve the parish campaign goal of $85,000. St. Francis of Assisi will receive 20% of all funds we raise up to the goal, totaling $17,000. Plus, 50% of every dollar raised above the goal will be returned to St. Francis of Assisi.

## 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 of Assisi.

With St. Francis of Assisi's share of the funds raised in this campaign effort, we will be able to pay off the rest of the air conditioning system in the gym without having to tap into our general operations funds.