DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

St. Joseph 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. Joseph, Blackwell. 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 the St. Joseph Parish. This campaign has my full support and, as your pastor, I hope you will embrace this opportunity here at St. Joseph.

Father Benjamin Lwin

OUR CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

St. Joseph 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. Joseph will raise significant funds toward needs of beloved community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve the parish campaign goal of $95,000. St. Joseph will receive 20% of all funds we raise up to the goal, totaling $19,000. Plus, 50% of every dollar raised above the goal will be returned to St. Joseph.

OUR PARISH ROOTS

The first mass in Blackwell was celebrated by Fr. Renier Sevens, pastor of Ponca City, in the homes of locals. He went on to establish four missions, one of which was in Blackwell. A building committee was formed in the spring of 1901 and Fr. Sevens celebrated Mass on lots purchased at the corner of 4th Street and Lincoln. A frame church was built in 1905 along with a rectory to house the first appointed pastor in Blackwell, Fr. Dupret.

Fr. Stephen A. Leven was appointed pastor in 1938 and his first project was to build a new church at the corner of 3rd St. and Bridge Avenue. The new church was dedicated on October 25, 1939 by Bishop F. C. Kelley.

In 1957, Father Dockers joined the parish and a year later a new 4-room, school and hall were built and dedicated on December 8, 1958. A few months later, on March 17, 1960, the church was broken into and set to fire. Many generous parishioners helped repair the church back to its former beauty. Fr. Joe Burger was appointed to Blackwell in 1988. In 1993, a renovation project including an extension between the parish hall, school, and church was built, enabling parishioners to have a gathering place. Additionally, handicapped restrooms, a new roof, an additional classroom and office were included in the renovation. The renovation was completed in August 1994. Fr. Ben Lwin, a native of Myanmar, has been the pastor since 2014. Currently, St. Joseph's is the home parish to 98 families.

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 use our share of the funds for maintenance of the church; especially the church, parish, and rectory air conditioning and heating units. This is important to our parish because our units are old and have required expensive maintenance every year! We have a total of six units altogether and expect to have to start replacing units in the near future. The newest unit was replaced in 2009. The oldest unit, in the gathering area, was installed in 1994. Replacing the units at St. Joseph's Church will allow us to worship in a more welcoming, comfortable and pleasant space!

Maintenance updates to the church, school, and hall

Repair and replace air conditioning and heating units