

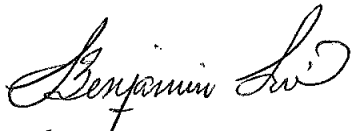


DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

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, Tonkawa. 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 our 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 Catholic church in Tonkawa started life as a Methodist place of worship. In 1909, Father Reneir Sevens, then pastor of Ponca City, bought the church on behalf of the Catholics in Tonkawa. Bishop Meerschaert blessed it for Catholic use on May 3, 1909. It was not uncommon in turn-of-the-century Oklahoma for buildings to be recycled in this fashion.

In 1911, Tonkawa became a mission of Blackwell. During the 1920's, the area farmers and merchants, Catholics among them, became rich from the oil leases they owned. It seemed to be time for a new church in Tonkawa! Because money was not a problem, the church was paid for almost as soon as it was completed. This created an unusual opportunity. In those days, a church could be dedicated, but not consecrated before it was debt-free. St. Joseph's had no debt; therefore, it could be inaugurated with the full panoply of Catholic ritual, in a service that took approximately six hours by Archbishop Joseph Palica. The marathon ceremony took place on July 5, 1926!

In 1948, the parish opened an elementary school staffed by Felician Sisters, whose motherhouse at the time was in nearby Ponca City. Like so many struggling rural schools this one had to close the doors in 1963. Today, St. Joseph, Tonkawa is still a mission of St. Joseph in Blackwell. For the past four years, Father Benjamin Lwin has been the pastor of these two parish communities!



OUR SHARE OF THE

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 replace and repair the existing flooring in our sanctuary! This update to St. Joseph's Church will help revitalize our worship space into a more welcoming and beautiful place to worship for all!

Beautify the sanctuary

**Replace existing
flooring**