

The project now known as our **Parish Campaign of Renewal and Restoration** actually had its beginnings in the winter of 2004. Fr. Hummer noticed that several of the buildings on the property needed significant work during his first few years as Pastor. He also realized that with buildings ranging in age from 120-160 years old, there would always be expensive maintenance issues. So, Fr. Hummer wanted to be proactive and plan for those costs. He had discussions with what was then known as the Finance Committee, a sub-committee of what was then known as Parish Council. The Finance Committee was advisory to Parish Council and Parish Council was advisory to the Pastor.

He commissioned a new Buildings and Grounds committee, reporting to the Finance Committee, to analyze all of the buildings and grounds that comprise the property and determine what the potential maintenance issues might be looking forward 10 years. The committee, Fr. Hummer, Joan D'Antoni, Tim Corcoran, Kris Litler, David Miller and Michael Haller, evaluated the property, to the best of their ability, identifying "Want To's and Have To's" that they believed would present themselves as maintenance concerns over the next 10 years. The committee presented their findings and recommended to the Finance Committee, and later Parish Council, that we employ an architect that specialized in the restoration/renovation of older buildings, preferring to hire someone that had a history of working with churches. This architect or firm would review and confirm the committee's findings and would be asked to evaluate the property and identify things the committee may have missed. Parish Council approved the recommendation.

The committee interviewed three firms and recommended hiring Freytag and Associates, led by John Freytag, architect. John and his father, company founder, and at the time still active in the firm, presented their proposal to the committee and shared their history of work with Catholic churches. They offered several examples of their work, mainly located along the I-75 corridor. Fr. Hummer, Joan D'Antoni toured one of the churches their firm had just completed in Celina, OH. The committee believed both their work and their personalities were a good fit. A contract was issued and their evaluation began in the spring of 2006. Freytag was instructed to identify everything they found, without concern for a budget, in an effort to reveal all potential issues. From that point, the parish would determine what was feasible and project a timeline for each piece of the huge scope of the project.

Freytag and Associates confirmed the committee's findings, and added additional discoveries. The determination was made that over the next 10 years, the property would need just shy of \$3 million of work, if in fact we were to return the property to its original condition. The major issues included but were not limited to the several roofs, the exterior brick work of four of the

five buildings, a complete renovation/restoration of the interior of the church, adding handicapped accessibility to all facilities, the complete restoration/renovation of the rectory, major electric and lighting renovation, the addition of a reconciliation room, and bringing four of the five buildings to code with safety equipment and lighting.

In 2007 the Building and Grounds Committee and Freytag and Associates made a final presentation to the Finance Committee. After reviewing the findings, there was discussion regarding potential savings. For example, what if we were to use asphalt shingles that looked like slate, or patch and seal the masonry, as had been done many times in the past. Fr. Hummer suggested that if at all possible, we owed it to the church, our forefathers, and one another to do the absolute best work we could do, using the same materials used when the church was built, if we were going to embark on this project.

One of the biggest concerns raised by the finance committee was that they believed several smaller project campaigns would overwhelm the parish, making it more difficult to raise funds for several projects, completed over several years. So, it was decided, as a result of much discussion and deliberation, that it would be more beneficial to have one major capital campaign to address all of the issues identified in the evaluation process. The committee further recommended that we do a feasibility study to see if a project of that size was even possible. The Finance Committee made a similar presentation to the Parish Council. The council recommended the committee proceed with the feasibility study.

Unfortunately the United States economy entered a recession about the same time. Fr. Hummer and the Finance Committee put the project on hold, concerned that with the current economic situation, it would be difficult to raise the funds and complete a successful project. So, the Finance Committee and Buildings and Grounds Committee only addressed maintenance concerns that absolutely had to be addressed, insuring that, at a minimum, the buildings would be safe, water tight, and secure.

In 2008 the Diocese of Columbus restructured parish advisory committees to the Pastor. Two new councils were founded, the Parish Finance Oversight Council and the Parish Pastoral Council. The Finance Oversight Council (FOC) would act as an advisory body to, and report directly to, the Pastor regarding all finance matters of the Parish, and the Pastoral Oversight Council (POC) would serve as an advisory body to, and report directly to, the Pastor on all

pastoral matters. It was determined that the best place for the restoration project was with under the umbrella of the Finance Oversight Committee.

During roughly the same time period, a lease of what is commonly called the Worthington Building was not renewed, and the home was vacated by the business that had leased the property. It was determined that the Worthington Building was in much better condition than the building currently serving as the rectory. So, following a kitchen remodel, the Pastor's living quarters were moved to the Worthington Building. The old rectory/convent was "moth balled" due to several maintenance concerns. The utilities servicing the building were shut off.

Several years passed, and in the spring of 2010 Fr. Hummer and the FOC decided to review and update the Freytag proposal. After review, the committee requested that John Freytag update the proposal with current figures, allowing for inflation based on the proposed timeline of the project. In the fall of 2011, Freytag presented the revised proposal projecting the cost of the project to be \$3.056 million. Having reviewed the project and its timeline, and in anticipation of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the laying of the church cornerstone, the FOC decided to proceed with the next step, announcing the potential project to the Parish.

In the 2011 Fall Newsletter, Fr. Hummer posted this letter, which became **The Case Statement** for the project:

*In the **Scioto Gazette** on Aug. 7 1866 the following entry was found, referring to the construction of St. Mary's Church: "We understand the church is to be an edifice of magnificent proportions, and one which will be an ornament to our already beautiful city." In that same newspaper on October 29, 1867 we read: "The brick work of St. Mary's Church is completed, and the sheathing of the roof has been put on, which will be covered with slate, and it is intended to have services held there by Christmas. It will probably be as fine a church building as there is in Ohio."*

*Today, 143 years later the same can be said of our beautiful church. It is as fine a church building as there is in Ohio. However, she's grown tired and she needs our help. Her brickwork has felt the years and the mortar that joins her is in serious need of repair. Her inside makeup has begun to peel and needs replacement. Her boards are sagging and need attention. Her lights are dim and need to be replaced. As one architect noted some years ago, "This place has lots of lights, but very little light."*

*We have inherited this church, which was built during the depression, which followed the Civil War. It is now our turn and our time to do something great for generations to come.*

*The slate roof is as old as the church building (1867). Slates are powdery and nails are rusting away. The slates become projectiles each time we have a storm and the potential liability should anyone be hit by flying slate is scary.*

*The bricks and mortar are in a desperate state and must be attended to soon. The North and South entrances to the church drain heat in winter and cool in summer. It is necessary to secure those entrances and protect them from the elements. We also need a confessional built and installed.*

*The inside of the church has not been painted or the electric wiring been seen to in ages and water damage from outside is now affecting the plaster and paint inside. They must be repaired. The present lighting is simply inadequate. Access to the sanctuary must be made available for those whose mobility is compromised.*

*Other buildings around the campus will also be attended to in this massive project as we rush quickly for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our beloved church building. St. Mary's was established as a parish in 1837 which means next year will be the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a parish.*

*Now ours is the challenge to secure the future for our descendants at St. Mary's.*

*Fr. Hummer*

The Finance Oversight Committee shared this description in the same newsletter:

### **Church Renovation Project**

*You may have heard that the Parish is beginning a "Church Renovation Project." Actually this process started almost 10 years ago with a detailed analysis of our campus. At that time, you may remember, our Buildings and Grounds committee analyzed all of the buildings and systems on our campus. We made of list of "**HAVE TO's**" and "**WANT TO's**". We also determined what needed to be done to "button up" the buildings for energy savings and protection from the elements. All of those projects were completed within the first couple of years. The committee also generated a list of things that would need to be done over the course of the next 10 years. A few of those have been accomplished. However, the majority of items have not, and it was determined by the **Finance Oversight Council (FOC)**, formerly the Administration Committee, that a complete renovation project would be more feasible for several reasons:*

- *Several of the projects are interconnected and would cost more to completed as standalone projects*
- *Completion of some projects would require redoing completed projects, if done separately*
- *One capital campaign would work better than several little ones*

*You may remember that last year we enlisted the services of Freytag and Associates to review our work, add suggestions, develop a timeline, and present estimates for the project. That study has been completed and John Freytag has presented the **FOC** with a very detailed packet of information.*

*Over the next 2 months we will be assembling a renovation committee, reviewing the information from Freytag and Associates, and eventually presenting the project to the parish. If you have an interest in serving on the renovation committee, please contact me, or Joan D'Antoni.*

*There will be several opportunities for parishioner input and discussion as we proceed. This is an exciting time as we prepare for the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our parish and the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of our church building!*

As the newsletter started discussions and created excitement throughout the entire parish, the FOC decided to present a detailed scope of the project to the Parish. Michael Haller presented the following explanation at all three Sunday masses with photo boards showing the damage and repair concerns, and allowed time for discussion following the presentation, in the Family Life Center:

*Over the past several months, you have more than likely heard or read the buzz about our Parish Renovation Project. The building and grounds committee began this process 10 years ago. The first step was to secure from the elements all of the buildings on our campus. The next phase was to make a list of have to's and want to's. The projects that were deemed have to's, we began to work on one at a time. There are still many want to's on our list, and many want to's have become have to's. This prompted the Finance Council and Building and Grounds committee to embark on a four year journey to put together a complete project to renovate the entire campus.*

*We have contracted with a group of architects and engineers to review our list of concerns, and evaluate the property independently, in hopes of preparing a complete project scope. That project scope is complete.*

*The next few steps include:*

- *Presenting to the Parish the entire project, in word, and in renderings.*
- *Completing a feasibility study*
- *Beginning a capital campaign*

*A random sampling of parishioners will be asked to interview with a group from the Diocese of Columbus, requesting your thoughts on the project. There is no commitment tied to the interviews, but the study will be invaluable in determining how much we are able to do.*

*Before we undertake the feasibility study, it is important for the parish to understand the needs addressed by the project. I would like to explain some of those needs, and have assembled picture boards, and have posted them in the rear of church, detailing them and how they will be addressed.*

## **EXTERIOR**

*Our 145 year old roof is in great disrepair. Sections are falling off during wind storms. The slates on the roof have become thin, and the nails that hold them in place are rusted through. During storms these slates become dangerous projectiles. Some have been found as far as 60 yards from the building. You may wish to look at the section missing at the base of the tower, on the south side of the building. You will also find a wheel barrow full of damaged slates that are picked up from time to time, at the rear of the family life center.*

*The brick on our church are very porous. Think of a loaf of French bread. There is a hard exterior crust, with a soft center. Several years ago the church was sand blasted to brighten the façade. This removed the outer layer of "crust." So, we will continually have to seal the brick. That work that was done 10 years ago is due again, and the old repairs are not holding. Our architect recommends replacing the brick that are deteriorating with new brick, rather than patching the face, as it was done 10 years ago. He also noticed the need to inspect the joints, and tuck point them where needed. A great deal of the mortar joints are popping or are weak. The best examples of the repairs that need done are on either side of the main entrance to the church, at eye level.*

*The tower of the building would also be secured and painted. There are loose metal seams that allow water and wildlife to enter the tower.*

*Two years ago the Diocese of Columbus, at their cost, did a detailed evaluation of our stained glass windows. Several have a great deal of damage, and almost all need some work. The large window over the main entrance of the church is literally sliding out of its mounting. This window alone will cost in excess of \$30,000 to repair. If you look carefully at the top of the window, you can see the large gap. Another example of the repairs needing done is in the window as you go up the stairs to the choir loft.*

*Our handicap accessible ramp is located on an alley, that during the winter is frequently filled with ice and snow, making it almost impossible to bring a wheelchair across from the parking lot. The alley is bellied, making it almost impossible to keep clear. This is a dangerous situation, asking someone in a wheelchair to cross the alley as folks are arriving for services. The entrance also has no protection from the weather. As the doors open, tons of energy, in the form of air conditioning or heat, escapes. Building two new entries, on either side of the church will enable us to move the handicap accessible entrance to the north side, which would be protected, and have new parking in close proximity. This would also enable control of the energy loss that occurs. The new vestibules would match the original architecture of the church.*

*The old rectory, which has no historical significance, would also be removed. The interior of the structure needs hundreds of thousands of dollars in repairs just to bring it to code, and it would not be cost effective to repair or occupy.*

### **INTERIOR**

*The interior paint of the church is falling off the walls in sheets. A great deal of this is due to moisture entering the building from the roof, or brick, however, the paint is also 30 years old. You can see several examples of this above me, along the roof seams on the south side, above the altar, etc. You may also notice that the walls are 4 different colors. All originally the same color, but the color changes as repairs are made.*

*We have no true confessional. The grotto is outdated and unsecure. We would replace the grotto with a proper reconciliation room.*

*The carpeting is old, dingy, and worn. It was installed almost 20 years ago. The structure supporting the floor is also failing in many areas. The most noticeable is along the north wall. The flooring is literally falling into the crawl space.*

*Our HVAC units are approaching 20 years old and will need replaced soon.*

*Our sanctuary is not handicap accessible. As lay ministers, and maybe someday even our pastor, try to move to and from the sanctuary, their needs should be considered.*

*The lighting in the church is poor, at best. The beautiful reredos we installed several years ago has never been properly lit, and the lighting in the sanctuary and main body of the church do not supply sufficient light for reading.*

*The restroom will be reworked and an updated cry room installed.*

*This is only a partial list of the work we believe needs done. Please take a minute to look at the areas I have described, and at the photos of the proposed work in the rear of church.*

*The most important thing to remember is that this is just the beginning of the project. Nothing is set in stone, and we are open to new ideas. I have posted a list of committee members with the*

*photos. If you have questions, please feel free to discuss those questions with me, Fr. Hummer, or any committee member. There will most likely be several changes to the final version of the project plan. This is just the first pass.*

*Every generation of parishioners has had to address maintenance needs; it's our turn. Every year we wait, the costs increase.*

*Please pray for the committee, our parish, and the work we are undertaking.*

*Thank you for your time and prayerful consideration of this project.*

The word spread fast. In fact, following the 5:00 mass presentation, a community member (non-parishioner) was present for the 8:45 Mass to hear the presentation, concerned about what was going to happen to the buildings on the property. One item on the list garnered particular attention from individuals outside the Parish, the demolition of the old rectory/convent. Over the years, the Building and Grounds committee investigated several possible uses for the old rectory/convent, including a youth center, a rehabilitation center, a food pantry, and office space. The committee explored sharing the building and expenses with neighborhood churches. However, after reviewing Freytag's estimate of roughly \$340,000 to bring the building to code, make it accessible, restore the foundation where two sections of the home were separating, repair that gap between the two sections, upgrade electric service, replace the roof, and do a general renovation/restoration, it was determined that the investment would not wise, would not be sustainable, nor was it the best use of that amount of money. All of this work would be required to use the building for ANY outside purpose. **If the public was going to have access to the building, at any time, for any reason, the work was required.** Freytag also determined that the location of the old rectory/convent would be ideal for handicapped parking. The office building, or Marian House, had NO handicapped accessible parking, and the location would protect those using handicapped parking for church from having to cross the alley. Adding handicapped accessible parking would service both buildings well. This would not to be the last time we "heard from the community."

In the early Spring 2012, the FOC contacted the Diocese of Columbus, Office of Development, to do a feasibility study. The study would explore interest in the project, and offer guidance as to the potential of completing the project and raising the \$3 million. The summary of the study results are below:

**Summary Provided By the Diocese:**

**59%** had a favorable reaction to the feasibility of the case statement

**79%** believe we are addressing the most important needs

**79%** are in support of proceeding with the capital campaign

**77%** have agreed to support the campaign

The Office of Development later provided a timeline of a capital campaign and our potential for raising the funds. Their projection showed the potential to raise \$2.1 million. The FOC reviewed their comments and believed that we could use \$500,000 from the William and Elizabeth Nolan Endowment Fund, \$100,000 per year for five years, to take our potential to \$2.6 million. Following much debate, and Fr. Hummer's reminder that we "walk by faith, not by sight," the FOC decided to proceed with the Capital Campaign.

It was determined that it would be in the best interest of the project to divide the work into two phases. A phased approach would enable us to meet the diocesan guidelines of having 50% of the money in hand, and the other 50% pledged much sooner. We would ask the Diocese of Columbus to approved Phase 1 and Phase 2 individually. Now, to begin raising the money required to get construction started.

A **Capital Campaign Committee/Church Renovation Project Committee** was formed, and an inspiring slogan selected: **Our Turn, Our Time, Our Home**, reminding us that it is our turn and our time to provide stewardship of the property, our church home, just as our forefathers did when the church was built. The cabinet members were:

## **Church Renovation Project Committee**

**Fr. Hummer**

**Michael Haller-Chairman**

**Joan D'Antoni-Capital Campaign Chair**

**David Miller-Buildings and Grounds Chair**

**Cabinet Members**

Jerry Ater

Dick Wagner

Jeff Benson

Sharon Wagner

Judy Benson  
Steve Burkhardt  
Dave Case  
Joanne Corcoran  
Chrissy Kessler  
Pat Laughlin  
Karen Leeth  
Diane Lewe  
Kris Littler  
Lance Mikus  
Marvin Riley

J.J. Pauls  
Dr. Patty Haller  
Dennis Corcoran  
Laura Corcoran  
Mark Newsome  
Jim Butt  
Dr. Richard Villareal  
Don Beatty  
Melanie Kennedy  
Jane Ragland

As the campaign cabinet was coming together, Fr. Hummer authored a prayer for the campaign:

*Almighty and merciful God*  
*When our ancestors, with your help*  
*and their own sacrifice of love,*  
*built St. Mary's, You sent Your Spirit*  
*to watch over and guide them.*  
*Send Your befriending Spirit to us now*  
*to watch over and guide us*  
*as we rebuild and renew your church,*  
*dedicated to Mary our Mother,*  
*and the Mother of Your Son.*  
*Give us a generous spirit and bless our sacrifice*  
*with Your love. Help us to cooperate*

*with love and trust in each other  
and in praise of Your Son, Christ Jesus,  
in whose name we pray, now and forever. Amen*

During the fall of 2012 several initiatives were started. Solicitation committees were put in place, the Diocese of Columbus Facilities and Finance offices were consulted and contractors were sent requests for proposals.

In December of 2012 Fr. Hummer and Michael Haller announced the kick-off of the Capital Campaign with the following presentation:

- *Fr. Hummer and our parish leaders have been working with John Freytag over the past four years to develop a plan to restore our church home, St. Mary.*
- *Last year we conducted a feasibility study and positive results from the study have helped us to determine how to move forward.*
- *We have decided to use a Capital Campaign and up to \$500,000 in funds from the William Nolan estate to fund the much needed projects to restore our parish sanctuary and other campus buildings.*
- *Our church and this campus should be a reflection of our love and gratitude to God for the many blessings he has allowed us to enjoy*
- *Many sacrifices were made to give us a place to worship and celebrate the mystery of the Eucharist. It is OUR TURN, and OUR TIME to continue this tradition.*
- *The Campaign Cabinet has been formed to assist with the fundraising efforts.*
- *The primary focus will be on the structural needs of the parish buildings.*
- *The secondary focus will be on handicap accessibility and décor*
- *The major exterior and interior structural needs will be addressed as well as restoring the beauty of our church home.*

- *The theme for the campaign is “OUR TURN, OUR TIME, OUR HOME,” and our goal is to raise \$3.1 million.*
- *Receptions are being planned to allow Fr. Hummer and the campaign cabinet to provide each of you with details regarding how we plan to meet this goal, to share renderings, and to explain the priority and detail of the repairs and restoration.*
- *There will be 3 receptions scheduled in January to give everyone an opportunity to come and hear details regarding:*
  - *Restoration details*
  - *How to make your gift to the campaign*
  - *Ask questions and share concerns*
- *You can start supporting the project right now in the following ways:*
  - *Pray, Pray and Pray some more for the success of the campaign, especially praying the campaign prayer*
  - *Be an ambassador*
  - *Begin to prayerfully consider your gift in the form of a 5 year pledge*
- *If you plan to head south for the winter, please contact Fr. Hummer prior to your departure and we will share the information we have to date.*
- *If you would like to make a pledge, or begin paying on one before the year end, please contact Fr. Hummer or me.*
- *If you are interested in serving on the campaign cabinet, please contact Joan or Katie in the parish office.*
- *You will be receiving an invitation to the 3 receptions later this month. Please plan to attend at least one of them and to respond to the invitation.*
- *There will be a great deal of information in the coming months, in the form of letter and word. Please call with questions.*
- *Please ask yourself, “How will **I** help maintain and restore this beautiful gift from God, which is dedicated to Mary and that serves and shelters us as we profess and share our faith?”*
- *Thank you for your time today and your prayers as we restore this beautiful campus.*

January of 2013 saw Bishop Frederick F. Campbell travel to St. Mary Church to show support for the project and offer the Diocese of Columbus perspective of the project. He was invited to help kick-off the campaign because the FOC wanted to insure that parishioners would not hesitate to contribute for fear of combining parishes, construction of a new church elsewhere in town, or closing St. Mary Parish all together. Bishop Campbell offered that reassurance in his homily and his presentation/reception that followed at the Family Life Center.

For the next several months fund raising was conducted and Freytag and associated secured bids for the first phase of the project. The first phase of the project would include the following work:

- Complete replacement of the church and tower roofs
- Complete restoration of the brick work on the church and Worthington building
- Demolition of the old rectory/convent
- New handicapped accessible entries to the church
- New handicapped parking on the site of the old rectory/convent
- Installation of a decorative wall and garden between the church and the Marian House

The following article appeared in the Spring 2013 Newsletter that served as a reminder of our theme/slogan for the project:

*While waiting for Easter Sunday Mass to begin, I overheard a conversation in which one parishioner was asking another, “Where are **they** going to get the money for the church renovations?” A better question would have been, “Where are **we** going to get the money for the church renovations?” Although we may ask others to help with the renovation, the first question is what are **WE** going to do to contribute?*

*The funds will come from a variety of sources. First and most obvious is from our parish membership. We have a duty as stewards of this church, and this property, to maintain it, and even to showcase it. Fr. Mario shared his thoughts with me and said that when he was deciding between 3 parishes, he walked into St. Mary Church and it took his breath away. Instantly he decided this beautiful structure was to be his parish home. And St. Mary Church is truly a home to her parishioners.*

*When we reflect on the most important times of our lives, we see that most occur in church, **our** church. The birth of our children is followed immediately by going to church for their baptism. When that child is old enough to confirm their Catholic faith, that faith that will be their rule and*

guide the rest of their lives, they again make that commitment at church, our church. As our children graduate from high school, we go to our church to celebrate the graduation at the Baccalaureate Mass. When we are married, we do so in our church. Annually we dress in our best clothing to celebrate Christmas, in our church. We do so again at Easter. Many of us go out and get a “new Easter dress, Easter suit, or Easter tie,” for one special mass, at our church. Even when our time has come to reap our heavenly reward, we return to church one more time for our Mass of Christian Burial. For the most important times in our lives, we come to our church; more specifically St. Mary Church. We purchase “church clothes” for our children, and ourselves. Shouldn’t we dress her up, just as we do our family, for all of these special occasions?

With the exceptions of our home and our work, we travel to this structure more than any other in our life. Shouldn’t this structure be something special? When you go out for an anniversary or birthday dinner celebration, isn’t it someplace special? If the paint was peeling, the carpet was stained and worn, the roof leaked, and it wasn’t handicap accessible, would you return to that restaurant? We celebrate the most important supper every week in this structure.

Several people have asked why we wouldn’t build another church, considering \$3 million would go a long way in building a new structure. According to the Diocese of Columbus, a new structure would cost an estimated \$9.5 to \$11 million, (based on the last 4 churches built for parishes similar to our size), and would in no way shape or form be as majestic as our current structure. (Personally, I’d rather try to raise \$3 million than \$11 million). When you consider raising our current church to build a new one, I would also share with the parish that after announcing the project at the 5:00 Saturday evening, a member of the Preservation Society attended our 8:45 mass to hear the presentation and to put us on their radar. Talk about a fight!! (Look how easy it has been to take down the Carlisle Building and put up a new one.)

Understand that the Church Renovation Committee will work tirelessly to explore all sources for support, but the responsibility falls first on the current parishioners of this down town jewel, St. Mary Church. We will also utilize the William Nolan Endowment funds for a portion of the work. Please understand that his gift was to be a sustainable endowment, and was simply to subsidize parishioner support. We will also seek grants from the public sector, where it is applicable.

The amount of work we undertake, and the cost associated with that work, will be determined by the Pastor after consultation with the Church Renovation Committee and the diocese, once we have the survey results back from the Diocese of Columbus. We will then determine goals for a capital campaign, grants, and use of the Nolan funds.

Please remember, it is OUR CHURCH and will require OUR FUNDS to make this renovation successful.

*A Member of the Church Renovation Committee*

Upon completion of the initial capital campaign, the Diocese of Columbus was amazed that almost 95% of the parish responded to the solicitation for the project, and that almost 70% agreed to contribute to the project. They shared that typically 60% respond to the solicitation for a capital campaign and only 33% participation is typical. Fr. Hummer explained, “We are not your typical parish!”

In a very short period of time, we had 50% of Phase 1 costs covered with money in hand, and we had the additional 50% pledged, so the Office of Finance and Bishop Campbell authorized proceeding with Phase 1 in the late summer of 2013.