

Continue
THE VISION
ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR PARISH

"Join me to
Continue the
Vision of
our parish
community..."



Dear Friends,

St. Lawrence Martyr is a wonderful parish. As I complete my ninth year as your pastor, I continue to be inspired by and grateful for your faith, hard work, and generosity. St. Lawrence is blessed in the sacrificial way that you give of yourselves, your time, your talents, and your finances, in support of the parish and our ministries.

Together, we have accomplished so much in the past 5 years. In 2014 we embarked on a capital campaign to address the needs of our growing parish. We needed more space to worship, gather, educate and continue our mission. Through the sacrifices of so many, we were able to take the first step in our Master Plan: to construct our new Parish Center on our 29 acre lot of land. Our parish center is a hub of activity and now serves as a place of worship for our parish family, houses our ministries, faith formation, parish events, meetings, and day-to-day operations.

We are so blessed to have this amazing multi-purpose space, but our community continues to grow and our ministries are active, diverse and many. In order to move forward in the future and complete our Master Plan of Development with the construction of our new church and additional parking, we must first retire our loan obligations to the Parish Center. Join me to **Continue the Vision** of our parish community as together we aim to raise \$1 million to significantly reduce the balance we owe on the Parish Center.

Please take the time and read this brochure carefully to become familiar with our campaign and consider making a pledge to the best of your ability. I am asking every household to make a generous offering to God and this community. We recognize that each family has different resources, but we ask every family to make a sacrificial gift, an equal sacrifice not an equal gift; to prayerfully consider not what least gift would be most convenient, but, rather, what greatest gift you are able to give back from the many blessings you have received from God.

I urge you to walk in the footsteps of Christ, to live your faith and share your blessings to help retire our debt and **Continue the Vision** for the future of St. Lawrence Martyr Parish. May the Lord shower upon all of you countless blessings for your generosity.

I thank you in advance for your support and prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Victor Scocco, O.S.S.T.

Rev. Victor Scocco, O.S.S.T.

Pastor

Our Faith... Our History

Our history is long, our heritage rich, and our future promising.

For much of our century- and-a-half of history, St. Lawrence has been an oasis of Catholic faith and worship in a small rural setting. In **1866** our parish was founded from just four families, with the descendants of several of those families remaining active and present members of the parish today. The dedication of the church on September 23 was attended by more than 2,000 people.

The Church received independent parish status in **1921**. Then in **1949**, while Fr. John Mountain was the pastor, the sacristy was added to the rear of the church. After Father E. Gerard Houseman became pastor in 1960, a religious education program was begun for the youth in the parish.

In **1966** the Centennial of St. Lawrence was celebrated with the internal refurbishment of the Church and an Anniversary Mass celebrated by Cardinal Lawrence Shehan. Shortly thereafter its own mission church was opened in **1967**, which later became Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in Laurel.

The parish continued to expand and in **1972** the original Parish Center was completed, adding space for restrooms, a kitchen, religious education programs, and other parish activities.

Fr. Bernard Harding, O.S.S.T., became the first Trinitarian pastor in **1978**.

The Church celebrated its 125th anniversary in **1991** with a ceremony that copied the original dedication, complete with a parade and nineteenth century costumes.

In September of **2010**, Fr. Victor Scocco, O.S.S.T., became Pastor, assisted by Fr. Binoy Akkalayil, O.S.S.T. That same year 29.8 acres of land was acquired by the Archdiocese of Baltimore for future growth, which prompted the creation of a parish Master Plan of Development in **2012**.

In the spring of **2014** a capital campaign was conducted to secure seed money to begin the construction of a Parish Center. The groundbreaking for our new parish center took place on **June 18, 2016** and almost one year later on **June 3, 2017** the Parish Center was dedicated.



Our Faith... Our Future

In a few short years St. Lawrence Martyr Parish has grown to **649 households**. The number and types of parish organizations and groups have evolved. Adult education, small groups, youth and outreach programs continue developing, and enrollment in religious education is at an all-time high. More than **215 parishioners** are actively involved in our varied ministries and involvement in parish sacramental life is increasing exponentially.

The growth of our surrounding community has been a blessing for our parish as we have welcomed our new neighbors into our parish community and share our faith with them. Our current facilities have given us the valuable physical resources to serve, evangelize and minister to our evolving community.

As local growth is expected to continue at **6-8% per year** for the foreseeable future, so too will our community continue to expand. Anne Arundel County is one of the fastest growing counties in the US and Parkside alone will construct 1,550 townhomes over the next 6 years.

The current worship space seats 350 and we realize that in the future this will not accommodate our growing number of Mass attendees. Our Master Plan addresses this growth with the future construction of a **new 1,000 seat church** and additional parking on our current property.

To **Continue the Vision** of our parish and community we require the capital necessary to retire the debt on our current facilities so that we can begin planning for future phases of our Master Plan. This is the next challenge that we must face together.



The following numbers illustrate our need:

The cost of our current 19,500 sq. ft. parish center was \$4.1 million

Through the sale of land surrounding our Historic Church we were able to put \$2 million towards the cost of the facilities

We incurred a \$2.1 million construction loan with a term of 15 years

Through previous campaign funds, building fund and miscellaneous collections, we have reduced our debt in the last two years to \$1.8 million

With the current scheduled payments we make, our debt obligations will not be fulfilled until July 2032

It is our goal to raise at least \$1,000,000 through this campaign to significantly reduce our loan principal as well as the duration of our payments

Doing so will leave the parish with approximately \$800,000 of principal debt

Paying off the loan sooner than anticipated will save us costly interest payments and allow us to move forward with our Master Plan sooner rather than later

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

You may make commitments to the **Continue the Vision** campaign in the form of cash, pledges, securities and planned gifts. Pledges may be fulfilled over a three year period in whatever increments that work best for you.



Cash or Check

You may make an outright gift by cash or check. Cash gifts are tax deductible, as provided by law. You can also utilize our online giving platform to make a gift either one-time or recurring.

Pledges

You may make a pledge to the **Continue the Vision** campaign. Pledges allow you to contribute a larger gift than would be normally possible to make in any one tax year. Pledges are a gesture of good intention and are in no way legally binding.

Matching Gifts

Many employers will offer to match your gift or pledge and you will receive the credit for the contribution. Please contact your Human Resources Department to see if the parish qualifies as a designated charity.

Securities

Securities can provide an additional tax advantaged means of giving. Through this type of gift, one can receive the charitable income tax deduction and avoid paying taxes on “capital gains” that would otherwise be due if the securities were sold. Please notify parish before transfer.

IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD), also known as an IRA charitable rollover gift, allows individuals 70 ½ or older to make an outright gift of up to \$100,000 from an IRA directly to the campaign and exclude it from taxable income. One of the key benefits of the direct charitable contribution from your IRA is that the distribution counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Life Insurance

St. Lawrence Martyr Parish may be named as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or ownership of an existing policy may be transferred to the parish.

Legacy Gift

A gift through your estate in the form of a bequest is a great way to leave a lasting legacy. A bequest naming St. Lawrence Martyr’s **Continue the Vision** campaign as the beneficiary would allow you to make a larger gift that would benefit generations to come. Please let us know if this simple gift giving method is of interest to you.

If you have any questions about the campaign or making your pledge, please contact the Parish Office at 410-799-1970.