

# GROWING IN GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

SAINT  
JOHN  
PAUL II  
PARISH  
Cedar Springs, MI



Special Edition Campaign Newsletter

August 2016

## Growing in God's Merciful Love

Capital Stewardship Campaign Newsletter

### *God is Calling. How Will You Respond?*

Dear Parishioners,

On July 6, 2013, St. John Paul II Parish humbly celebrated our first mass. At that time, we had about 60 registered households. Today, through your ministry in the community, outreach to fellow Catholics, and joyful addition of new Catholics each year at the Easter Vigil, our parish has grown to over 340 registered families, as well as numerous friends and visitors.

To accommodate this exciting growth, we have been offering four masses each weekend. These masses are well attended and some exceed capacity. We know that parishioners and guests are sometimes being asked to sit in the narthex or lounge. We also know that some families are choosing to leave upon realizing there is no space for them. Sadly, we are turning people away.

As a parish, we have reviewed our current facilities, outlined our current needs, and forecasted our future growth and our capacity to accommodate that growth. This was started in 2015 through a parish master plan, which was developed with input from parishioners, as well as an architect. The master plan is designed to maximize the coordination and utilization of our facilities and property and it indicates that St. John Paul II Parish should build a larger church and maintain the current church for regular, continued use. The architectural plans of a new church were drawn with growth phases, so it would meet our immediate and near future needs, as well as accommodate future construction expansion. In order to be the best stewards of our resources, the parish also underwent a feasibility study in 2016. The purpose of the feasibility study was to assess the parish's capacity to raise the funds needed for the church. The study included a survey of all parishioners and personal interviews. The results of the study were very favorable and indicate that our parish has the capacity and willingness to raise the funds needed for the new church! We also took the plans and study results to the Bishop, who is very supportive and pleased with the level of thought and planning thus far. He has indicated that we may move forward with fundraising.

Today, with a parish master plan in place, positive feasibility study, and support of the Bishop, we are excited to launch our capital campaign, "Growing in God's Merciful Love". Every parishioner will be asked to pray, consider their sacrifice, and support this important campaign. Because each of us is blessed differently and capable of different gifts, we are each asked to financially support this campaign accordingly. What you give should be over and above your regular giving.

No one will tell you what to give toward this campaign—that is between you and the Lord. "Growing in God's Merciful Love" only asks that you pray and make a sacrificial gift according to how you've been blessed and act as the Lord leads. A new church that meets our needs is our goal, and Christ is our reason and example.

Sincerely,

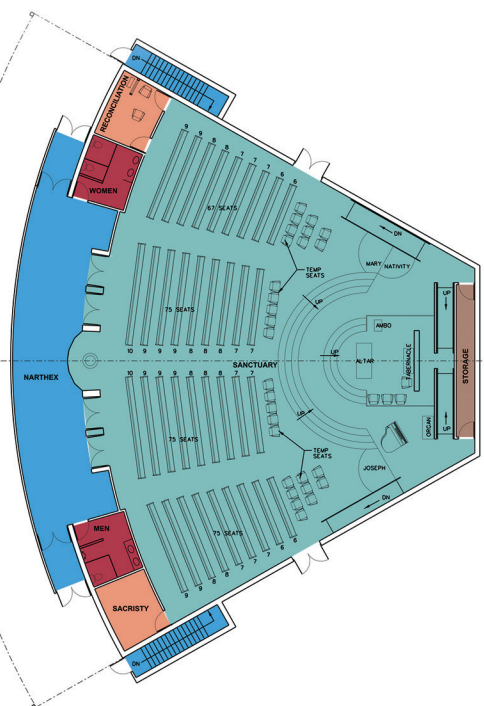
**Rev. Lam T. Le**  
Pastor

**Mindy Larva/Chris Pigorsh**  
Campaign Co-Chairs

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# What is a Capital Stewardship Campaign?

A capital stewardship campaign is the process to raise the needed funds for phase 1 of our new church. The campaign focuses on keeping everyone informed, answering questions, and providing spiritual food for thought.

Throughout the campaign, you'll receive information and be invited to presentations to learn more about the plans and how important your participation in this campaign is to the future of our parish.

Each of us will be asked to prayerfully consider a 3-year sacrificial commitment over and above our annual financial support. No one will be pressured or told how much to give. Each of us is asked to give according to our blessings. Everyone is needed!

We can accomplish all of this:

- Without anyone being pressured to ask others for pledges or money.
- Without asking anyone to give more personal time than is reasonable.

**Remember,  
Not Equal Gifts...  
But, Equal Sacrifice**

## The Numbers

### ESTIMATED PHASE 1 COSTS

Finished main floor new church	\$1,787,000
Unfinished lower level church	\$476,000
Rectory	\$200,000
Sub-total new construction	\$2,463,000

Sitework allowance	\$600,000
Furnishings allowance	\$226,000
Fees	\$300,000
Contingencies	\$411,000
<b>TOTAL Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$4,000,000</b>

### FUNDING PLAN

Parish-wide campaign	\$1,000,000
Outside parish support	\$1,000,000
Diocesan low interest loan	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL Estimated Funding</b>	<b>\$4,000,000</b>



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. How much do we need to raise?**

**A.** It is our prayerful hope that our parish will raise \$1,000,000 in a 3-year capital campaign.

**Q. Could we wait until we have all the money to build the entire church versus doing it in phases?**

**A.** Our parish is growing and we need facilities now versus later. Not having adequate facilities for our expected growth will turn people away from joining the parish. Building in phases is good stewardship and within the resources of our parish abilities.

**Q. What will happen to our current facilities?**

**A.** All current facilities (including the church) will continue to be utilized as the faith formation and outreach center of the parish. The current church will remain as a holy chapel for weddings, funerals, and daily mass.

**Q. How much will I be asked to give to the campaign?**

**A.** You will not be told to give a specific amount. Everyone is asked to reflect on his/her individual blessings and then pray about a sacrificial pledge to be paid over three years. Your pledge should be over and above your current giving to the church.

**Q. What does "sacrificial" mean?**

**A.** Sacrificial giving is a personal act of giving generously of yourself and your resources as a response to God's immeasurable generosity to you. Sacrificial giving usually means a change in your lifestyle in order to give generously to a 3-year campaign.

## How Can You Help?

If everyone accepts a small task, then together we can achieve our common goal! When asked, please say "yes" to assisting with the campaign. Or, call the parish office to volunteer. Don't worry, no one will be asked to discuss or talk to someone else about money.

Here is a sample of teams that are being assembled to help with the campaign:

### Children and Youth

This team will help plan and implement activities designed to enhance children and youth's understanding of the campaign.

### Commitment Team

Towards the campaign end, the commitment team will phone parishioners who have not yet made their intention known and simply encourage them to register their intention. No one will be asked to convince anyone to participate.

### Hospitality and Event Team

This team will provide hospitality throughout the campaign, as well as plan, organize, and coordinate any campaign event needs.

### Mailing Team

The mailing team will assist with the distribution of all campaign mailings, including bulletin stuffers, etc.

### Prayer Team

The prayer team will organize various prayer and reflection features throughout the campaign to keep us all focused on our personal stewardship of our God-given gifts.

### Communications Team

This team is responsible for ensuring members of the parish are well informed about the capital campaign. Activities include compiling newsletters, writing letters, and preparing presentations.

*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10*