



Saint Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church

132 South High Street

Lancaster, Ohio 43130

740.653.0997

After receiving the Feasibility Study report; which you saw in the bulletin a few weeks ago, our parish leadership has voted to move forward with a campaign. Today, I would like to announce that we have officially kicked-off our capital campaign. Our campaign theme is ***One Faith, One Hope, One Family: The Tradition Continues.*** This is an important undertaking for our parish as we move forward towards our 200th Anniversary year in 2020. Our goal is \$2.5 million with a challenge goal of \$3 million and we will be setting a participation goal as well. I am hoping that a majority of our families will participate with a pledge.

This is a huge undertaking for our parish and for me as your pastor. Although I have never led a capital campaign, I am keenly aware of the importance of leadership in this endeavor. Therefore, I have asked several parishioners to assist me in leading this campaign as members of our Campaign Cabinet. They are:

Joe & Cathy Barrows
Kevin & Ilene Crabtree
Corey & Shelley Gavin
Sean & Tracie Kenney
John McGraw
Andy & Julie Ogilvie
Mike & Linda Sheridan

The Campaign Cabinet will provide me with advice and counsel; help me recruit others to serve in volunteer roles; and to serve as advocates for the campaign. The campaign will be conducted over the next four months and will conclude just before Christmas. We will be asking everyone to consider a pledge over a 3 to 5 year period.

I have already begun the first phase of the campaign which has included reaching out to a number of families asking for their support. Because I am unable to personally visit every family, the following phases include gatherings in parishioner's homes and here at our parish. This allows EVERY PARISH FAMILY the opportunity to attend a campaign gathering with me. These gatherings will include presentations about our campaign; a forum to ask questions and join with others in fellowship and support of our wonderful parish. The final phase will be a Commitment Weekend at Masses in early December and a follow-up mailing prior to Christmas.

Each family will be asked to consider a contribution within a particular gift range in order to provide you the opportunity to evaluate what your best sacrifice might be. There will be NO parishioner-to-parishioner solicitation. We will be asking you to prayerfully and privately consider your family's best sacrifice by making a Decision of Faith. The Decision of Faith prayer guide will provide you with the opportunity to consider your gift by focusing on gratitude, love and joy. All of these are important aspects of our life as Disciples of Jesus Christ. Before you make your gift, I ask you wait until you receive your packet and have a chance to learn more about our efforts of the Campaign for our parish.

We will continue to work with Greater Mission, the Catholic development firm who led our feasibility study and use their expertise and commitment to mission of our Church to guide our parish to success.

I look forward to working with all of you to achieve a successful conclusion to our campaign and to be with you to lead our wonderful and historic parish into a third century of Faith, Hope and Family.

Thank you and God bless you.

Fr. Craig Eilerman

Pastor