

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Foundation for the Future Capital Campaign*

***Can I designate that my donation be utilized by just the church and not the parish hall?***

The campaign has established separate accounts so that a parishioner can specifically designate that their gift be utilized only for the church repair and renovation and not the parish hall. This is a specific decision made by the faithful donor.

***Why should I give to the Saint Mary's Foundation for the Future Capital Campaign?***

We hope every parishioner will choose to give to the *Foundation for the Future* Capital Campaign, for this is the plan the parish has embraced. Giving to the Capital Campaign is an opportunity and a responsibility to strengthen our church and protect our future. We hope this campaign will be ever more faith *raising* than fund-raising. We want to fuel our vision and turn it into reality. The *Foundation for the Future* Capital Campaign is not about glorifying ourselves, but rather glorifying God and reaching out to change people's lives.

***Why is Saint Mary's in a campaign at this time?***

As a parish, we have prayed, listened, felt the stirring and heard the yes - "Go forward, pursue your vision. Use your abundant resources to lay the foundation for the Kingdom of God." Our vision is clear. The time to act is now. It has been 20 years since our last major campaign and we hope and expect that every family and friend of the parish will support the campaign. This is our parish and it will be what we make of it. *Foundation for the Future* is our emphatic YES to the future! It's an historic opportunity to ensure that Saint Mary's will continue to be, by God's grace, a great parish with a dynamic role in the world.

***The economy is struggling.***

The parish needs exist now. We will continue to under-serve our parish and important ministries if we wait. Furthermore, we put at risk our facilities and endanger our people if we do not act on those items that require structural attention. Moreover, we don't know what the future holds and whether the economy will be weaker or stronger in 2-3 years.

***What is the campaign's fund-raising goal?***

Father Joe has set a campaign goal of \$2.9 million, which is roughly 5 times our annual giving of \$500,000. We feel this is certainly achievable if we all stretch the boundaries of giving out of our accumulated assets and ordinary income. We have an opportunity do something wondrous that reflects our love of God and each other.

***How did the goal get set?***

The needs were identified through an extensive study involving program leaders, the diocese and the engineering consultants. Plans were developed, at the general level, and presented to members of the parish at the Focus Group meetings. Using professional estimates, we then aggregated the costs of our plan and, finally, made cuts based upon an assessment of what was achievable. The results of that process and the priority needs based on various levels of giving can be found at our website.

***What % of the campaign is going towards the School?***

100% of the campaign goes to the church. The school is a regional school and is not controlled by the church. We own the building and rent it to the school.

***How do I make a gift to Saint Mary's?***

We are seeking gifts by means of a pledge, using a Pledge Card. Pledge payments may be made with cash, check, securities and/or other real property that meets *Saint Mary's Parish Gift Acceptance Policy*. These payments can be made periodically over a five-year period in any frequency that works for the donor. Obviously, the campaign benefits from payments that are made early in that period.

***How can I make a gift to Saint Mary's through my estate?***

Jerry Loftus can provide the specific information on providing gifts to Saint Mary's from your estate. He can be reached by phone at 792-7743. Such gifts are a wonderful expression of love for Saint Mary's Parish and its ministry although, typically, the gift would not benefit the campaign.

***How do I make a gift of stock?***

There are procedures and forms that you can use for providing the essential information to Jerry Loftus that can be obtained from your broker. Additionally, you may call Jerry directly for clarification on any point.

***May I make a memorial or honorary gift?***

Yes. There is a list of a limited number of opportunities that are available and we will be pleased to talk with you about them.

***Can I specify how my gift is to be used?***

The projects are prioritized in the sequence that they will be funded. The priorities represent our understanding of the wishes of the members as expressed in the Focus Groups and the practical influences brought to bear by the needs, in some cases, for certain projects to be completed before others can be begun. It may very well be that the funding need that you want supported is high on that list. As a practical matter, we anticipate that most gifts will be made with those

priorities guiding the use of their funds. If you feel quite strongly that you want your funding going to a specific cause, however, your wishes will be honored.

*How many years do I have to fulfill my pledge?*

Donors have five years from the date of their pledge to fulfill it.

***Do I still need to make a pledge to the 2009 offertory program?***

Yes. We need your weekly and monthly offering to support the day-to-day operations of the parish.

***How is the Capital Campaign different from the annual campaign?***

Pledges to the Capital Campaign should be viewed as being above and beyond the weekly offerings, which support the day-to-day operations of the parish. The Capital Campaign is a special way to meet the needs that cannot be met through the weekly offerings.

***How can we be sure this money will actually go to the purposes for which we give?***

Each of the parish needs has been described by Father Joe in the brochure for the *Foundation for the Future* Capital Campaign. The priority lists for items that must be taken care of if \$2.9 million is raised are set out in that brochure and also on this website. This process of arriving at the parish needs and costs has been lengthy and involved the input of parishioners over five weeks during the Focus Groups. Nineteen Focus Groups were held and many parishioner concerns were taken into account in reaching these priority lists. These items will be accomplished in good faith and to the best of the ability of the parish based on how much is raised. Father Joe has asked that each person and family to consider prayerfully and faithfully what they can give to meet those needs.

***Will all the funds stay in the parish?***

Yes, all of the funds will go towards the listed projects.

***Can we arrange it for the most essential work to be done first?***

Yes, as previously noted, prioritization is being done by Father Joe, the Parish Finance Committee, Diocesan engineers and outside experts.

***Regarding the 5 year financial plan - will the work also be spread over the 5 years?***

The work will be done as quickly as possible with planning and coordination with the diocese and outside consultants. This will ensure consistency and avoidance of unnecessary increases in costs associated with the project.

***Is there any money available from the diocese?***

Possibly - the *Foundation for the Future* Capital Campaign is primarily financed solely by the parishioners of Saint Mary's Catholic Church.

***What is the parish mission - to spread the word of God or to fix buildings?***

It would be impossible to spread the Word of God through the Mass and the sacraments without buildings. Buildings, like people, age and need repair. The entire parish is praying that the campaign be a success. We should view it not so much in material terms, but as an opportunity for evangelization and for personal spiritual growth, by trusting that God will satisfy our parish's and our personal needs and by believing that His will can bring about great things through our combined efforts.

***Where and when are we in the process? When will we see a priority list? The concern is that cosmetic changes not come before structural changes.***

We are in the planning stage and a current broad-brush priority list is (1) on this website; (2) in the presentation booklet you will receive when you have a visit from a member of the campaign committee; and, (3) will also be covered in the weekly bulletin. The priorities and their rationale are best explained in a thirty minute presentation by one of our committee members (either in your home or at the rectory) as they are only an extract from a larger document. As you look at the list, it is quite evident that safety and structural issues are of the highest priority and concern.

***How will the parishioners be informed of the choices made and progress made on projects undertaken?***

There will be a number of methods of communicating choices and progress. The bulletin and the website always will contain the most current and up to date information on progress and decisions. Being an active participant in one of our committees is also an excellent way of not only being aware of decisions and progress, but being part of the process itself. We very much need your help in visiting others, working on the committees, and bringing others into the process.

***Will it be handicapped accessible?***

Yes

***How many people will it hold?***

375 standing and approximately 100 seated

***How many square feet in the parish hall?***

6,550 square feet

***Will the bells be restored and working?***

That will be a function of how much money is raised, it is a function of your generosity and considered sacrificial pledge to the campaign. It would also be a wonderful memorial gift from a family or individual and the designation of the naming rights would be up to that family or individual.

***Will the Old Post Office be sold?***

The Diocese, Church, Finance, Facilities and Pastoral Council have a consensus opinion that no church property is for sale.

***Will the post Office be demolished?***

There are no plans for any changes to the building at this time.

***Why don't we use the school as a Parish Hall?***

There are a multitude of reasons, this is a partial list:

- Scheduling is very problematic;
- To be an effective Parish Hall it MUST be connected to the church;
- People will not cross two streets to get to a social event after Mass;
- It has been tried before (at least twice) and it was a failure;
- The building is not handicapped accessible;
- The Great Hall acoustics are terrible;
- It is a Regional School. We only own the building and rent it to the school;
- It is not an appropriate place to hold a wedding reception, bereavement function, christening celebration, or any other formal church activity.

***Is there storage space under the "balcony" for a limited number of chairs and tables?***

Yes. Additionally, there is also approximately 7,000 square feet of storage space under the church that can be reached from a staircase from the addition.

***Can we consider a ramp and cover over the rear entrance to the church?***

Yes, again it is a function of your generosity and considered sacrificial pledge to the campaign and Diocese decisions.

***Will we be the beneficiary of any proceeds from Saint Alphonsus?***

Possibly yes, but when and how much, if any, is unknown.

***Will the entire project begin at once or will it be staged?***

If we are successful in gaining pledges it will be looked at as one project. Certain items must be addressed first such as repairing Saint Mary's window above the Tabernacle – it is in precarious condition. The exterior of the church and the plaster and painting are high priority items. The Diocese, Facilities Committee and the Pastor will make final prioritization determinations.

***Is Peter Hoffman's proposal being considered?***

There never has been a formal proposal to purchase the Post Office and the church has made a decision that no property will be sold.

***How many meeting rooms will we have?***

By using expandable walls we have the flexibility of up to five or seven rooms.

***When I pledge, how long do I have to fulfill it?***

Five years.

***When will work begin?***

It is planned to start by summer 2010. Items such as Mary's window may be addressed sooner.

***Can you publish Building Funds data in the Bulletin?***

Yes

***Will Mary's window be fixed?***

Yes, it is of the highest priority.

***What will happen to money from sale of St. Alphonsus?***

If there are any residual funds after all other debts are paid we will be the recipients.

***Can the balcony be used?***

Our architects are looking at how to accomplish that and maintain the "look" of the church.

***Can we fix the bells?***

Yes, it is a matter of how much money is raised in the campaign.

***PLEASE SEND ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO:  
rmattes@nycap.rr.com***