

Campaign Messenger

Fulfilling Our Promise
The Debt Reduction Phase Campaign

March 20, 2010

Campaign Announced

We are pleased to announce today the launching of a very special campaign effort for the benefit of our St. Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community. It's entitled *Fulfilling Our Promise: The Debt Reduction Phase Campaign* and its aim, is to raise the funds needed to reduce our debt from our extensive church and school renovation.

Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$3,000,000 over a period of three years, which will help us to meet this special need. Our

challenge goal will be to raise the full \$6,200,000 required to pay down the debt in full.

The campaign will officially commence with a special "Kick-Off Celebration" scheduled for Sunday, April 11th at noon and will culminate on Saturday & Sunday, May 15th and 16th – Commitment Weekend – where members will be asked to make their campaign gift commitments.

The pages that follow provide additional details

about our needs, our plans and our campaign.

Through the prayerful, volunteer and financial support of many, we will succeed in our task and, in so doing, will help to make St. Bartholomew an even more special and spectacular place to go and to grow in God's name.



Campaign Cabinet Enlisted

Our campaign leadership, or "cabinet," has now been enlisted. This critical core group of leaders will give guidance and will drive the overall campaign.

Serving as Chairpersons of this special effort are Don Adams, Ed & Toni Egan, and Scott Sayer, who will assume primary responsibility for the Advance Gifts Committee and that phase of the campaign, and Jodene Marquis and Bob & Angela Poorman, who will oversee

the Community Gifts Committee and that phase of the campaign.

In addition, we have also been blessed with an excellent supporting cast who are tasked with leadership of the various support committees needed. They are Mike & Mary Conklin, who will lead our Prayer Committee; Connie Kearney, who will lead our Hospitality and Special Events Committee; Londa Bilski, who will lead our Youth and Children's Gifts

Committee; Jim & Kate Vogl, who will lead our Communications Committee; and Bob Burns, who will lead our Creative Giving Committee.

Many more leaders and workers are also needed to help with this important effort, so please say "yes" to volunteering when you are asked, or contact the Campaign Office at (952) 473-6601 or email campaign@st-barts.org to say that you'll happily help!

Fulfilling Our Promise - Where We Are Today

In 2001 the parish began an extensive planning process of "Preparing the Way for the Next Fifty Years." Included in this process were the three phases of Discerning Our Growth, Defining Our Growth and Deciding our Growth. In 2005 the Pastoral Council presented the findings and the options to the parish at large. The response and recommendation from the parishioners and the pastoral council was to proceed with plans calling for reorienting and expanding the worship space, which provided additional building space for the school and parish offices.

As a result of the generous support of the parish community in our 2006 *Fulfilling Our Promise Campaign*, we were able to complete the entire project in 2007. Additional special gifts received outside the campaign allowed us to add our inspiring corpus and stained glass windows above the altar, the Stations of the Cross, and the Repository of the Word, as well as the pipe organ.

Newcomers to our church recognize our current facilities as the only St. Bart's they've ever known. Longer term families will remember how far we've come. No matter how long we've been members, we cherish this community and all it offers.

Our New Worship Space

Our previous worship space was functional, but was small, dark and lacked the full sense of sacredness our Catholic tradition offers. Our new spacious and sacred worship space clearly gives all the sense they are *entering God's home*. Its design was carefully planned to inspire a sense of reverence and awe to all who enter through a high quality sacred space featuring many traditional elements of design, such as...

- an abundance of natural light from clerestory windows,
- a sanctuary finished with Jerusalem stone from the Holy



A view of St. Bart's from the fire station before construction (left) and after construction (below).



- Land and an altar, lectern and baptismal font hewn out of beautiful green granite,
- the tabernacle in the main worship space,
- a special Repository of the Word,
- a pipe organ for sacred music,
- a warm and inviting interior with quality finishes,
- stained glass in the sanctuary,
- a remodeled gathering space,
- a cry room for young families,
- a special family room for weddings, funerals and counseling,
- spaces to accommodate more sacred art in the future, and, finally
- a new energy-efficient heating and cooling system to serve the worship space as well as the gathering area and the lower level below the church and to provide cost savings through increased efficiencies.

Our School Enhancements

Our school previously was not a secure building; it had a poor ventilation system, no air conditioning in the office area or media center, drafty non-energy efficient windows, limited technology, and only a small playground. Through the recent enhancements, our school building is now worthy of the quality education that happens within it! These improvements benefiting our children and the school include providing...

- all school programs and classrooms in a single, secure building with a central, monitored

entrance accessible during the school day,

- a fully handicapped-accessible building, with elevator access to all levels,
- a new ventilation system through the building,
- new energy-efficient windows throughout the building,
- a new welcoming air-conditioned reception and office area with natural light,
- two classrooms now available for every grade level,
- new, specially designed classrooms for our early childhood program, Pre-K and Kindergarten,
- a new Fine Arts Center, including a music room, art room and an air-conditioned media center located on the lower level to benefit school and parish programs,
- a Spanish classroom,
- a special room designated for before and after school programs for children,
- new ceilings and energy-efficient lights in corridors,
- new paint and floor coverings for all classrooms and stairways,
- a doubling of the playground space and the relocation of the dumpsters away from that area, and
- all new and expanded lavatories on the lower level.

Fulfilling Our Promise - Where We Are Today (continued)

Our Chapel and Reconciliation Room Renovations

Our chapel also benefited greatly from new improvements. This space was home to our tabernacle and small Masses. Last updated in the 80's, it had been furnished with chairs. The chapel improvements included...

- relocating the tabernacle from the chapel to a place of prominence in the main worship space,
- reorienting the chapel 180 degrees to open up the space and create a better environment for smaller Masses,
- replacing the chairs with custom-made pews crafted out of original pews from our old worship space, and
- providing all new carpet, paint, and liturgical banners to help reflect the sacredness of the space.

The Reconciliation Room was also updated with new carpet and lighting and custom-made wood paneling—also created out of our old church pews. The addition of two glass doors provides for greater safety for the confessor and the penitent.

Our Lower Level Improvements

Our entire lower level under the church was updated or rebuilt. Our

improvements included...

- re-configuring the space to create rooms of sizes that work better for the life of the parish,
- providing new paint, carpet, energy-efficient lighting, and new drop ceilings for all rooms, and
- adding a hallway around the Pope John XXIII room, allowing better access to the smaller meeting rooms.

Our New Parish Staff Offices

Previously, parish staff offices were too small, too few, and too scattered throughout the building, making collaboration difficult. Through our renovations, we now have a centralized Parish Administrative Office Suite so that...

- all staff offices are centralized into one office suite on the lower level of the church with easy accessibility for the entire faith community,
- a sufficient number of offices are provided for the entire staff,
- all parish offices are separated from the school building to provide proper security for the school,
- a new conference meeting room to serve smaller gatherings is available with access from the office suite as well as the lower

level lobby, and

- a new open, inviting reception area is provided to reflect the welcoming nature of our community.

Our Other New Improvements

In addition to addressing the much needed issues in the church, school, and offices, a number of other improvements were completed through efficient planning. These include...

- increasing overall parking by 50%,
- adding 30 new parking spaces for school days,
- providing a greatly improved and safer traffic flow for the campus,
- replacing all old roofs in need of repair,
- adding a new fence around the playground,
- adding new street-side signage,
- improving the management of our storm water runoff to help protect the environment, and
- installing a new sprinkler system in the chapel and Fellowship Hall.



Our new worship space

Fulfilling Our Promise - Where We Are Going

Due to the interconnectedness of our renovations, there was no way we could reasonably stage our projects and complete them separately. Because of this, we said at the start of our original capital campaign in 2006 that we would need to take on debt to complete the project and that we would likely need to conduct additional campaigns to retire that debt.

We completed all our projects at the absolute best time for our faith community, culminating six years of planning and preparing by our members. Unfortunately, it also landed our project at the peak of the

construction costs for the decade. This meant our project costs were higher than the early estimates provided by the architect in our planning process. However, once our budget was set we worked diligently and came in on budget. In round numbers, the cost to construct our extraordinary new facilities was \$10.3 million. Through the generosity of our parishioners during our very successful *Fulfilling the Promise* campaign, we raised \$6 million. When we add in the \$1.3 million in carrying costs and expenses, we are left a current debt of \$5.6 million.

Our Pastor, Father Michael Reding, along with our Administration Commission and Pastoral Council, have been working to manage our current debt without impacting any parish ministries or programs. In fact, the goal is to fund all of the construction and associated costs without using funds from the weekly offering or from the operating budget. Rather, the plan is to continue to pay all of these expenses from the capital campaign account.

Our Campaign

To address our needs, we are initiating an intensive fundraising effort entitled the ***Fulfilling Our Promise: The Debt Reduction Phase Campaign***. Our aim with this important effort is to raise the funds required to reduce our debt from our extensive church and school renovations.

Our minimum goal is \$3,000,000, which will enable us to service our debt for the next three years and pay down nearly \$2,400,000 in principal. Experts tell us this is a good goal for an average Catholic Church of our size and demographics. However, we have always strived to be better than average at St. Bartholomew, so we need and hope to do far better. Therefore, we've set a challenge goal of \$6,200,000 which, if met, will enable us to retire all of our debt, including the carrying costs of the loan for the next three years.

The campaign will officially commence with a Campaign "Kick-off Celebration" scheduled for Sunday, April 11th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend. The campaign will culminate on Saturday & Sunday, May 15th & 16th— a special time that we're calling "Commitment Weekend"— when campaign volunteers will be visiting with parishioners after Masses, in their homes, and/or by phone to explain our efforts, answer questions, and invite your investments.

Campaign Goals:

Minimum
\$3,000,000

Challenge
\$6,200,000

How Can You Help?

In preparation for this important event, we ask that you do three important things:

- First, please pray for our campaign's success. Our future depends on your prayers.
- Second, please volunteer your time to the campaign effort. Over 170 volunteers will be needed to assure that the campaign runs as efficiently and effectively as possible and that the job of volunteering is a relatively easy and enjoyable experience for everyone.
- Finally, please consider a generous financial contribution to the campaign. Long-term subscriptions, or pledges payable over three years, in addition to your annual stewardship offerings are encouraged and essential to meeting our ongoing and this special project's needs.

Your support will assure both our campaign and our community's future success!

*"Let no debt remain outstanding,
except the continuing debt to love one another,
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law."*

Romans 13:8
