



“Christ Our Life” Capital Campaign *an endeavor for a new Pastoral Center while benefiting parishes in the diocese*

The Diocese of New Ulm is in the midst of the “Christ Our Life” Capital Campaign, a major fundraising effort to raise \$15 million. The money raised will be split, with \$7.5 million going to the diocese and \$7.5 million going to the 76 parishes participating in the campaign.

The name of the campaign reminds us that all we are and all we have comes from Christ, and as Christ was generous with us, we should be generous in sharing whatever we have with others.

Specifically designed to be very parish friendly, the campaign seeks to raise the funds necessary to build a new Pastoral Center for the diocese and for each parish to have money to address specific projects.

An example of a parish that ran the campaign and has already reaped financial benefits is the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. “Cathedral’s rector, Msgr. John Richter, did a tremendous job of leading his parish through the campaign process, meeting his diocesan goal and his parish goal,” said Wayne Pelzel, diocesan director of Development. “In fact, they have done so well that they have already received nearly \$150,000 back from the diocese and have begun work on some important projects.”

In the following testimony, Msgr. Richter shares some insights he gained as he went through the fundraising process.

“I wanted Cathedral parish to be a part of the campaign pilot phase because of the projects we would be involved in. When the “Christ Our Life” Campaign started, I approached six people to serve on the leadership team. Five of the six were eager and willing to do so. This made all the difference for the success of the campaign. The



The roof of the Cathedral was damaged by a hail storm and the shingles needed to be replaced. This was also an opportune time to paint the trim of the church. These improvements were all funded through the “Christ Our Life” Capital Campaign.

leadership team was very enthusiastic and extremely helpful throughout the entire campaign.

“Personally, and I think I can speak for the whole leadership team, I thought the process was much easier than I had anticipated. The leadership team was ready to attend meetings and offer a lot of good information and insights as to what needed to be done.

“The key to the success of our campaign was the involvement of the volunteers who made personal contacts. We determined the number of personal contacts we were going to make and then asked for volunteers. My goal was to have volunteers make two to three contacts. If they wanted more they were able to take more, but to have a volunteer make many solicitations would most likely be overwhelming. The volunteers selected the names of people they were willing to contact and faithfully carried out that responsibility. This part of the campaign was very successful and completed in a short time.

“Cathedral parish had four main projects. One is in progress now – painting the exterior trim and re-shingling the church. Other projects include the restoring the stained glass window, repairing the pipe

organ, and shingling the Holy Trinity Middle School. The roof of the Cathedral was damaged by a hail storm on June 26, 2010, and we needed to replace the shingles. This was a good time to paint the trim of the church as well. This project will be completed within the next three or four weeks.

“Already, \$150,000 has come back to the parish from the campaign to help cover this expense!

“It was a surprise and a great blessing to receive so much from the campaign so quickly. The first installment of \$122,000 came back to the parish just a few months after the campaign started, and then a second check for \$28,000 came to the parish just six weeks after the first installment. This was very beneficial because payments for the work being done on the church were due around the time both checks came in.

“We are close to meeting our parish goal, which was established at \$1,100,000. This goal should cover the cost of the four projects designated for the parish campaign.”

Q & A's concerning the proposed new Pastoral Center

by Bishop John M. LeVoir

building, with the Holy Eucharist in the chapel as the center of the building and, symbolically, as the center of the diocese.

Q. Has the proposed new Pastoral Center project been thoroughly thought through?

The project began to be discussed five years ago by Archbishop Nienstedt and the Property Committee of the Diocese of New Ulm. Plans were drawn up by a professional architectural firm. They were modified and re-modified a number of times over the five-year period to cut costs as much as possible. In addition to the diocesan Property Committee, the project was reviewed by the College of Consultors, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the diocesan Finance Council, and the diocesan Priest’s Council. All gave their approval.

Q. Why would an office building, such as the proposed new Pastoral Center, cost \$5.6 million?

A pastoral center building is like no other building. It is not just an office building. It is a multipurpose and many faceted

The building must accommodate an archive and it must have a communications section for publication of “The Prairie Catholic” and audio-visual materials. The offices must be suited for privacy and confidentiality. They must be places where the professional staff can have their personal files, computer, books, and other resources. Catholic Charities requires space for confidential counseling and meetings. There must be large spaces for meetings. There must be a large work room for copy machines, mail processing, etc.

For the most part, all these features are the same features that pastoral center buildings have throughout the dioceses of the United States. They are unique to pastoral centers, and buildings with such features do cost more money to build than standard office buildings.