

“Christ Our Life” Capital Campaign moving toward projected goal

parishes continue to benefit from funds returned

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 to be used to build a new Pastoral Center, and \$7.5 million going to the 76 parishes participating in the campaign.

In preparation for the campaign, parishes have identified their own areas of financial need. These include building projects, maintenance projects, adding to the cemetery care fund, bolstering endowments, starting an emergency fund, and retiring debt.

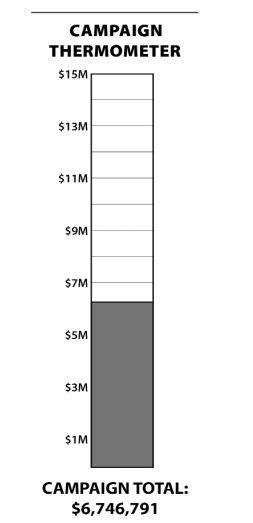
Donations collected from parishioners are divided 50/50 between their parish and the diocese until the overall parish goal is met. At that point, 100 percent of any additional donations benefit the parish.

The campaign is being guided by the Steier Group of Omaha, Neb., which has been paid a fixed fee for its professional services. All campaign expenses incurred will be deducted from the diocese’s portion of the funds.

St. Mary’s, Seaforth put campaign funds to use in aftermath of summer storm

On July 1, 2011, a major thunderstorm with a reported tornado, strong straight-line winds and large hail swept through Lyon, Redwood, and Renville counties in the Diocese of New Ulm. While some areas were hit hard, such as Vesta and Belview, the residents around Seaforth experienced damage as well. Many lost trees, had roof or shingle damage, and experienced other losses.

The Church of St. Mary in Seaforth also sustained damage on the west side of the church. Basement windows and a screen were broken by hail, and the air conditioning units sustained damage. The



estimated cost of these repairs was around \$5,000.

The shingles of the church roof also sustained considerable damage. Unfortunately, because only half the roof sustained damage, the parish’s insurance would only cover half the expense. The estimated cost of materials and labor was \$30,000.

According to Fr. Todd Petersen, pastor at St. Mary’s, without the money already collected and returned to the parish from the “Christ Our Life” Campaign, an immediate response to replacing the roof would have been difficult financially.

“I was so thankful for the campaign funds that were available to my parish at this crucial time,” said Fr. Petersen. “We were blessed to be able to address the damage right away without further financial burden to parishioners.”

Fr. Petersen acknowledged how well organized the Steier Group and diocesan representatives were. “As a parish in the pilot phase, it was wonderful to walk into a program that was well designed, timed, and implemented,” he said. “The initial campaign meetings

were very useful, with great information shared, which made the implementation on the parish level easy,” he said.

Fr. Petersen emphasized that the financial benefits for both the diocese and parish helped garner support for the campaign. “Though financially, times are still tight for many, St. Mary’s parishioners responded very well,” he said. “We are a farm-based economy, so contributions are calculated based on how the crops might do. Our parish goal was met very quickly, and those who contributed were happy to be asked,” he said.

Fr. Petersen felt that the keys to St. Mary’s successful fundraising were an emphasis on communication as well as great volunteers. “We had a tremendous group of volunteers who were upbeat, excited to help, and ready to answer any questions.

They found unique ways to make the appeal. For example, they informally gathered givers for a meal who were mutual friends. Once word was out, it caught on,” he said.

The financial returns from the campaign that St. Mary’s received will more than cover the cost for repairs. “It was with profound relief that I could stand before the parish and inform them of the damage, and that we had the money on hand, thanks to their generous support of the ‘Christ Our Life’ Capital Campaign,” said Fr. Petersen.

For an up-to-date progress report on the campaign, visit the New Ulm diocesan Web site, www.dnu.org, or contact Wayne Pelzel, director of Development, 507-359-2966; wpelzel@dnu.org.



Please keep the pastoral leaders and volunteers of the following parishes in your prayers as they kick off the final wave of the “Christ Our Life” Capital Campaign. These 31 parishes are undertaking, in good faith, a capital campaign to raise \$8,098,000 for projects to benefit the Diocese of New Ulm and their individual parishes.

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| St. Gregory the Great, Lafayette | St. Gertrude, Forest City |
| St. Mary, New Ulm | St. Pius X, Glencoe |
| St. Paul, Comfrey | Our Lady, Manannah |
| Holy Rosary, North Mankato | Holy Family, Silver Lake |
| St. Peter, St. Peter | St. Anthony, Watkins |
| St. John the Baptist, Searles | Holy Trinity, Winsted |
| St. George, West Newton Twp. | St. Paul, Nicollet |
| St. Mary, Arlington | St. Joseph, Lambertton |
| St. Michael, Gaylord | Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth |
| St. Brendan, Green Isle | St. John-Assumption, Faxon Twp. |
| St. Joseph, Henderson | St. Catherine, Redwood Falls |
| St. Anastasia, Hutchinson | St. Raphael, Springfield |
| St. Philip, Litchfield | St. Michael, Morgan |
| St. John, Morton | St. Mary, Cottonwood |
| St. Boniface, Stewart | St. Clotilde, Green Valley |
| St. John, Darwin | |

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