

“Christ Our Life” Campaign for new pastoral center set to begin pilot wave

New Ulm – St. Francis parish in Benson has a new educational center in the works. The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm will opt for a new roof. A new parking lot and restroom updates are on tap for Sacred Heart in Franklin. At other area parishes, plans are underway for facility expansion, heating and cooling upgrades, and much needed structural repairs. They are different churches with different projects, but share one common trait: All will be participating in the "pilot wave" of the Diocese of New Ulm's "Christ Our Life" Capital Campaign.

“By having this campaign that is all-encompassing, that includes all of these parishes, it's a phenomenal concept,” said Mary Ellen Domeier, a member of the Church of St. Mary in New Ulm and campaign volunteer. "It's great to see that all of us can, at one time, in a very efficient manner, address our individual needs at the same time as we address the diocesan need."

Seventeen parishes have volunteered to participate in the pilot wave of the campaign. Each parish of the diocese will be asked to raise 1.12 times their annual parish offertory. The parish and the diocese will share equally in this amount. In other words, for every dollar raised, the parish will receive 50 cents and so will the diocese. Once the parish reaches its goal, it will receive 100 percent of every additional dollar raised. The monies raised for the diocese will go toward construction of a new pastoral center. The allocation of the parish funds will be decided by each local church or area faith community.

As a former pastor, Bishop John M. LeVoir knows how important it is for a parish to secure its future. “What do they need? Maybe the rectory needs fixing or something else needs to be done. They'll be able to face the future in a much more solid position” through their participation in the campaign, he said.

Preparations for the start of the pilot wave are well underway. Parish leadership and volunteers are currently attending training meetings in anticipation of the kickoff in late March. Parishes that are not participating in the pilot wave will conduct their efforts later this year.

For further information about the campaign, contact the diocesan Office of Development, 507-359-2966; wpelzel@dnu.org.