

“Our Journey Into The Future . . . Together”

Phase II

UPDATE
May 2, 2010

Text of presentation by Bill Ipsen at all Masses the weekend of May 2, 2010

I'm Bill Ipsen, chairperson of our capital campaign. Fr. Mike has asked that I take a few minutes this weekend to give you an update on Phase II of our campaign which began in January of this year.

On the weekend of January 16-17, I was able to share with you the good news regarding the **completion** of our five-year capital campaign, “*Our Journey Into The Future . . . Together*” Phase I, and also announce the **immediate inception of our next campaign**, “*Our Journey Into The Future . . . Together*” Phase II.

As you may recall, Phase I of our campaign was a great success with 90% Parish participation and \$5.7 million in pledges and gifts raised as we continue toward our goal of constructing our permanent church. When we consider the economic realities of the past two years, we are justifiably pleased that Phase I of this campaign was so successful.

At that same time, I presented a fantastic opportunity that Fr. Mike was able to work out with Bishop Brom and the Diocese, to continue on our path toward construction of our permanent church. As you know, the Diocese made a one-time offer to St. Thomas More: if we are able to raise and collect \$2 million in the next two years (2010 and 2011), giving us a total of \$5 million dollars on deposit, the Diocese will grant us a loan for the remaining balance, allowing us to begin construction immediately. This timing would also allow us to take advantage of lower construction costs and lower interest costs, which could save an additional \$500,000 to \$1 million in overall project costs.

This is a **great** opportunity, and we must do everything we can to take advantage of it. If we do not take advantage of this exception to the usual Diocesan loan guidelines, it will delay construction for years.

As Phase II of the campaign began, we started out very quickly toward our goal of \$2 million. Prior to the actual start of the campaign, we met with several groups of Parishioners who pledged over \$600,000 to get the campaign started. In the ensuing three months, thanks to the generosity of 464 of our members, we have an additional \$675,000 in pledges, which brings our current total to \$1,275,000. As of today, 46% of our Parish has accepted the challenge and has pledged 64% of our goal. We are getting close, but we are not yet there. Of equal concern is the fact that our 24 months are now down to 20 months. So today I am asking everyone in our Parish family that has not already done so to please consider

making a pledge to help us reach our goal. As you can see, with 46% participation, we cannot meet our goal of \$2 million.

In Phase I of our campaign we had 90% participation from our Parish family. If we can reach that 90% plateau again, which would mean another 440 families pledging, we should achieve our goal. Any amount that you are able to give is greatly appreciated.

Please consider this scenario: a \$1,600 pledge over 20 months would be a monthly payment of \$80, a weekly payment of \$20, and a daily payment of \$2.86—less than a Grande Frappuccino at Starbucks!

Obviously, everyone's financial situation is different, and we understand that. Fr. Mike is just asking that everyone take responsibility for the building in which you and your children will be worshipping for many years to come.

Letters are going out this week from Fr. Mike seeking your help. Please take time to read the letter, fill out the form, and return it to the Parish Office. If you are not able to give at this time, please indicate that to us. We **do** understand!

Everyone's response is important, because in Fr. Mike's conversations with Bishop Brom, it is vital that he has a

realistic sense of where we are now and what we will be able to do.

Finally, I would like to share with you what one household has done. This household is in a position to do more, so they made an extra pledge of \$1,600 to anonymously adopt a Parish household that is not able to make a commitment at this time. Since then, an additional two anonymous gifts have been received, and this wonderful idea is gaining momentum. **What a kind and generous act!** If you, too, are in a position to do so, consider an extra pledge of whatever amount you are able to give. Silently and anonymously, you will adopt a Parish household that is not in a position to pledge.

The clock is ticking, and we need to move forward immediately to take advantage of this special opportunity. Bishop Brom will be with us on Sunday, October 17, at the 10:30am Mass to lead us in the celebration of our 25th anniversary. Wouldn't it be the greatest way to celebrate 25 years by hearing him say to us, “You can begin construction!”

I thank you for your support, and most importantly, ask that you continue to pray for the success of this, our most important campaign to date.

