

Q. What is *Rooted in Christ, Growing in Faith*?

A. *Rooted in Christ, Growing in Faith* is St. Mary's capital campaign to raise \$1.75 million in gifts and pledges for our local parish needs. This campaign will provide funds to revitalize our Church facilities, upgrade safety to our School campus, beautify our Cemetery, renovate our St. Vincent de Paul building, and fulfill our parish's commitment to the Diocese of Austin's *Encountering Christ* Campaign.

Q. Why is St. Mary's embarking on a capital campaign, independent from the Diocese?

A. In 2018, our Parish Facility Committee prepared a Strategic Facility Plan that recognized the renovation needs of our older and newer facilities. Recognizing our extraordinary needs within the parish, Bishop Vasquez has granted St. Mary's special permission to combine our campaign with the Diocese.

Q. What are the components of the Diocese of Austin's *Encountering Christ* Campaign?

A. *Encountering Christ* is a capital and endowment campaign to raise \$85 million in gifts and pledges for local parish needs while strengthening ministries, Catholic education and faith formation, supporting our clergy and enhancing growth and development across the diocese. St. Mary's commitment to the Diocese is \$318,500, which represents 70% of our 2016 annual offertory.

Q. How will St. Mary's campaign affect parish offertory?

A. While our *Rooted in Christ, Growing in Christ* campaign will raise much-needed funds to revitalize our parish facilities, offertory giving supports day-to-day operations of the parish. We must look to the future as we consider supporting future ministries within St. Mary's. Our hope for St. Mary's is that offertory giving will increase over a 5-year pledge period. We ask that parishioners prayerfully consider increasing their offertory giving to St. Mary's beyond the length of our campaign.

Q. How much will families be asked to give?

A. Every family in the parish will be asked to consider a sacrificial gift to *Rooted in Christ, Growing in Faith* in the spirit of Christian stewardship.

Q. Can donors make gifts of stock, crop, or other non-cash gifts?

A. The Diocese of Austin accepts publicly traded securities and sale-of-agricultural goods as payments on pledges.

Q. How should payments be made to fulfill a pledge?

A. Donors may choose to fulfill their campaign pledge with monthly, quarterly, or annual payments. The Diocese of Austin will process each gift and provide a gift acknowledgement letter confirming the preferred schedule for payment reminders. If a donor does not receive a gift acknowledgement letter in a timely manner, please contact the Diocese of Austin at (512)949-2400.

Q. Why are donors asked to complete a pledge card?

A. Pledge cards record and acknowledge campaign commitments as well as provide donors with a reminder of their requested payment schedule. Donors sign the pledge card to authorize the terms of their gift. *A pledge card is not a legally binding document.*

Q. Can a donor fulfill a pledge with a credit card or automatic bank withdrawal?

A. Yes, the diocese recommends all donors fulfill their pledges with a credit card or an automatic bank withdrawal, but especially those who opt to pay on their pledge monthly.

Q. Are gifts to St. Mary's campaign tax-deductible?

A. You will receive an acknowledgement of your gift for tax purposes. Please also consult with tax and financial experts.

Q. Besides giving, how else can parishioners support the campaign?

A. Prayer is at the heart of the Gospel. Every family should pray for the success of this campaign and for the Diocese of Austin. Your prayers are a great gift to *Rooted in Christ, Growing in Faith*.

Additionally, Fr. Keith will require the assistance of a team of dedicated volunteers to ensure the parish campaign is a success. If you are interested in helping, please call St. Mary's Campaign Director at (713) 829-3532.