

Faith for Generations
Our Sacrifice for Tomorrow

March 9, 2011

Dear (name),

Our parish began as a mission to the Cathedral Parish in 1930. A pre-fab church from Sears Roebuck was used during the first eight years. On February 5, 1938, our current church building was dedicated. Our parish began its school in that first year, 1930. The Sisters of Notre Dame agreed to staff the school with just a few weeks' notice. Our school existed in several locations until the northern part of the current building was built in the 1950's, and the southern part in the late 1980's. Over the generations, the generosity and sacrifices of Saint Agnes parishioners and the Sisters of Notre Dame are what have made our parish and its educational ministry possible, beginning with August Knockelman's generous donation of much of the land we now occupy.

Much has changed in education since the 1950's. Much has changed even since the late 1980's. The necessity to accommodate DVD players, classroom computers, the internet, smart boards, etc. was not even dreamed of in those decades. For over three years now we have been evaluating the needs of our school building and other parish facilities. We have decided that now is the time to act to enhance our facilities, most especially our school building, so that we can better offer the kind of education children need today in an environment that is conducive to the learning process.

In order to finance the implementation of these projects, we have decided to conduct a capital campaign in our parish. We have decided to name our campaign *Faith for Generations* as a salute to the generosity and sacrifices of those who have made Saint Agnes what it is today. We chose the name also as a challenge to ourselves to be good stewards of what we have received and to pass it on to our children.

Your involvement in this campaign is crucial to its success. In brief, I ask you to please commit yourself to:

1. Carefully read the enclosed materials and become familiar with the projects and the campaign.
2. Make a reservation to attend whatever meeting you are invited to (described below)
3. Think about and pray about your sacrificial gift to this cause
4. Pray for our parish and the success of this campaign
5. Attend Sunday Mass on May 21 or 22 and make a pledge

Detailed information about the process and the projects is included in the enclosed brochure. We believe it is very important for you to not only understand the projects that we have identified, but that you also understand the diligence with which they have been studied and prioritized.

In the coming days, you will be invited to attend one of the Informational Fellowship Meeting Receptions or one of the Advance Commitment Meetings. These meetings are designed to share information about our capital needs that are a part of our *Faith for Generations* campaign and to call our parish family to prayer. A host or a member of the church leadership will discuss the

plans, answer your questions and share our vision for our parish and its ministry (via a video presentation). We will also share with you why this program is so very important and why every member is so important. No financial commitments will be asked for or received at these receptions.

When you receive your invitation either by phone or letter, please be ready to affirmatively RSVP as a demonstration of your support and as an encouragement to others.

Lastly, a word about our *Faith for Generations* campaign and the Diocesan Annual Appeal 2011 (DPAA 2011). For this year, we have permission not to conduct the DPAA in our parish. We are however still responsible for our parish portion of the diocesan goal. This portion is \$135,300. In 2011 only, we plan to raise and pay our portion from our *Faith for Generations* campaign. Saint Agnes parishioners will still receive mailings from the Diocese on behalf of the DPAA. If you choose to contribute to the DPAA directly, your gift will be credited toward the Saint Agnes portion of the DPAA 2011 goal.

Over the coming weeks I ask you to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider your financial commitment to our *Faith for Generations* campaign. Discuss it with your family. Attend one of the Informational Fellowship Meetings. At the Sunday Masses on the weekend of May 21 and 22, we will have a special time during the Mass when members of our parish will be asked to bring their commitment cards forward and lay them before the altar.

I am counting on you. The next generations are counting on you.

In Christ,
Fr. Mark Keene