

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Foundation for the Future Capital Campaign*

#### *Why should I give to the Saint Louis Foundation for the Future Capital Campaign?*

We hope every parishioner will choose to give to the *Foundation for the Future Capital Campaign*, for this is the plan the parish has embraced. Giving to the Capital Campaign is an opportunity and a responsibility to strengthen our church and protect our future. We hope this campaign will be ever more faith *raising* than *fund-raising*. We want to fuel our vision and turn it into reality. The *Foundation for the Future Capital Campaign* is not about glorifying ourselves, but rather glorifying God and reaching out to change people's lives.

#### *Why is Saint Louis in a campaign at this time?*

As a parish, we have prayed, listened, felt the stirring and heard the yes - "Go forward, pursue your vision. Use your abundant resources to lay the foundation for the Kingdom of God." Our vision is clear. The time to act is now. It has been 20 years since our last major campaign and we hope and expect that every family and friend of the parish will support the campaign. This is our parish and it will be what we make of it. *Foundation for the Future* is our emphatic **YES** to the future! It's an historic opportunity to ensure that Saint Louis will continue to be, by God's grace, a great parish with a dynamic role **in** the world.

#### *The economy is struggling.*

The **parish** needs **exist** now. We will continue to under-serve our **parish** and important ministries if we wait. Furthermore, **we put at risk our facilities and endanger our people if we do not act on those items that require structural or other code-related attention.** Moreover, we don't know what the future holds and whether the economy will be weaker or stronger in 2-3 years.

#### *What is the campaign's fund-raising goal?*

**Father Staples** has set a campaign goal of \$7 million, which is roughly **5 times** our annual giving of \$1.4 million. We feel this is certainly achievable if we all stretch the boundaries of giving out of our accumulated assets and ordinary income. We have an opportunity do something wondrous that reflects our love of God and each other.

#### *How did the goal get set?*

The needs were identified through an extensive study involving program leaders, the diocese and the county. Plans were developed, at the general level, and presented to members of the **parish** at the Focus Group meetings. Using professional estimates, we then aggregated the costs of our plan and, finally, made cuts based upon an assessment of what was achievable. **The results of that process and the priority needs based on various levels of giving can be found at [www.saintlouisparish.org](http://www.saintlouisparish.org).**

***What % of the campaign is going towards the School and McClunn Hall?***

Over 80 % of the first campaign funds, \$2.7 million, will be used to directly benefit the school and McClunn Hall. We truly can make a difference in the lives of the next generation of leaders and others whom we are called to serve.

***How do I make a gift to Saint Louis?***

We are seeking gifts by means of a pledge, using a Pledge Card. Pledge payments may be made with cash, check, securities and/or other real property that meets *Saint Louis Parish Gift Acceptance Policy*. These payments can be made periodically over a five-year period in any frequency that works for the donor. Obviously, the campaign benefits from payments that are made early in that period.

***Can I make a gift with my credit card?***

Yes. Many members are currently making payments for their annual pledges by means of credit cards through *Faith Direct*. Please contact Paul Rukenbrod for specific information on *Faith Direct*. He can be reached by phone at (703) 765-4421 Ext. 17 or by email at <mailto:finance@saintlouisparish.org>. Others are taking advantage of automated payments from their checking accounts through *Faith Direct*.

***How can I make a gift to Saint Louis through my estate?***

Paul Rukenbrod can provide the specific information on providing gifts to Saint Louis from your estate. He can be reached by phone at (703) 765-4421 Ext. 17 or by email at <mailto:finance@saintlouisparish.org>. Such gifts are a wonderful expression of love for Saint Louis Parish and its ministry although, typically, the gift would not benefit the campaign.

***How do I make a gift of stock?***

There are procedures and forms that you can use for providing the essential information to Paul Rukenbrod that can be obtained from your broker. Additionally, you may call Paul directly for clarification on any point.

***May I make a memorial or honorary gift?***

Yes. There is a list of a limited number of opportunities that are available and we will be pleased to talk with you about them.

***Can I specify how my gift is to be used?***

The projects are prioritized in the sequence that they will be funded. The priorities represent our understanding of the wishes of the members as expressed in the **Focus Groups** and the practical influences brought to bear by the needs, in some cases, for certain projects to be completed before others can be begun. It may very well be that the funding need that you want supported is high on that list. As a practical matter, we anticipate that most gifts will be made with those priorities guiding the use of their funds. If you feel quite strongly that you want your funding going to a specific cause, however, your wishes will be honored. **See the priorities list based on various levels of fund raising at [www.saintlouisparish.org](http://www.saintlouisparish.org).**

***How many years do I have to fulfill my pledge?***

Donors have five years from the date of their pledge to fulfill it.

***Do I still need to make a pledge to the 2009 offertory program?***

Yes. We need your weekly and monthly offering to support the day-to-day operations of the **parish**.

***How is the Capital Campaign different from the annual campaign?***

Pledges to the **Capital Campaign** should be viewed as being above and beyond the weekly offerings, which support the day-to-day operations of the parish. The **Capital Campaign** is a special way to meet the needs that cannot be met through the weekly offerings.

***How can we be sure this money will actually go to the purposes for which we give?***

Each of the parish needs has been described by Fr. Staples in the brochure for the **Foundation for the Future** Capital Campaign. The priority lists for items that must be taken care of if \$3.25 million is raised are set out in that brochure and also on this website at this link [www.saintlouisparish.org](http://www.saintlouisparish.org). The needs that are in the \$3.25 million priority list are important, including a failing roof, failing structural beams, failing school foundation, outdated and non-code lighting, broken HVAC, non-compliant and failing electrical systems, and non-compliant emergency exits and doors that do not accommodate the disabled and elderly. See pictures of some of these problems at this link [www.saintlouisparish.org](http://www.saintlouisparish.org). If more money is raised, then items get added to the priority list of what the parish will accomplish with that money. This process of arriving at the parish needs and costs has been lengthy and involved the input of parishioners over seven weeks during the **Focus Groups**. Thirty nine **Focus Groups** were held and many parishioner concerns were taken into account in reaching these priority lists. In addition, the Arlington Diocese Construction Office, as well as the Development **Office**, worked closely with Fr. Staples and Tom Balint, the Building and Grounds Superintendent of St. Louis Parish, together with the parish accountant and the Parish **Finance Committee**, to make sure that the right items were on the list of priorities to be accomplished with the money you give. These items will be accomplished in good faith and to the best of the ability of the parish based on how much is raised. Fr. Staples has asked that each person and family to consider prayerfully and faithfully what they can give to meet those needs.

*It seems that problems should have been taken care of before now, or **if they were addressed, previously were not addressed adequately.** How can we be sure the job will be done properly where in the past money given may not have permanently taken care of parish problems?*

During the Focus Groups over seven weeks, these concerns were raised and fully taken into account in discussions with the Arlington Diocese Construction Office and the Steering Committee of the *Foundation for the Future Capital Campaign*. In addition, Fr. Staples is forming a Building Committee that will not only assure that proper warranties are purchased, but that reputable contractors and subcontractors are used to obtain the results that the parish needs for the near and long term. For example, the **current roof, which was installed over a decade ago**, was supposed to last 30 years when it was purchased, but the wrong materials were used and it began to show signs of serious wear and tear within the first five years. When Fr. Staples looked into what happened, it turned out that the company **which** installed the roof had gone out of business long ago. There simply **was** no warranty or recourse. In order to rectify this, the campaign has looked at the materials and warranty on the roof that is proposed. The tiles are 50-year tiles and come with an enforceable warranty. They are the same tiles used on the Cathedral of Arlington Diocese. They also **are** appropriate for St. Louis' type of pitched roof, which the current materials are not - which explains the holes, missing tiles, and water coming into the sanctuary. There are other examples where the Steering Committee has taken the concerns into account. The chair is well acquainted with acquisition issues, and two attorneys familiar with construction law and government contracting and bidding sit on the committee. Others on the committee have a background in military management and purchasing. Further, the Parish **Finance Committee** and the new Building Committee and the Diocese Office of Construction will provide guidance and oversight to create accountability and transparency to the process by which the needs get fulfilled. They are aware of the need to maintain proper controls and stewardship over your gifts so that problems supposed to be addressed in the campaign actually are addressed effectively.

*Will all the funds stay in the parish?*

Yes, all of the funds will go towards the listed projects.

*Are you saying that the beams weren't repaired before?*

No, this is a new and serious problem that must be addressed now.

*I am concerned about the altar placement for the **Tridentine Mass** - current placement is too close to edge.*

When the altar is moved back and the flooring is replaced after the beam repair, there will be more space for the **altar used at the Tridentine Mass**.

*How much extra money will it take to move the tabernacle?*

The funds for moving the tabernacle back **to the center of the sanctuary** are in place and will not come out of the campaign funds.

***Do you propose taking out the skylights or leaving them in?***

Leaving them in place is the current plan.

***Are they considering changing out all the pews?***

Yes, over 60% need repair. This portion of the project will not be addressed until all of the safety and structural issues comprising the first \$3.25m are completed.

***The kneelers are too close to the pew, will this be fixed?***

This item will be addressed by the Building Committee.

***Can we arrange it for the most essential work to be done first?***

Yes, as previously noted, prioritization is being done by Fr. Staples and Tom Balint, the Parish Finance Committee, Diocesan engineers and outside experts.

***You spoke of poor quality on prior work, how can we be sure that the new work has better quality?***

The diocese has a list of approved firms that we will work with. The Arlington Diocese Construction Office, as well as the Development Office, will work closely with Fr. Staples and Tom Balint, to make sure that the right vendors and suppliers are used in this project and, where appropriate, warranties will be obtained and enforced.

***Did we have fraudulent or improper business in the last build?***

No, just some poorly executed work and lack of sufficient warranty and backing by a reputable firm. This occurred before controls and checks at the diocesan Construction Office were in place.

***Regarding the 5 year financial plan - will the work also be spread over the 5 years?***

The work will be done as quickly as possible with planning and coordination with the diocese and outside consultants. This will ensure consistency and avoidance of unnecessary increases in costs associated with the project.

***Did I hear about putting a second story on the school?***

No. There is absolutely no plan for this at this time.

***I am a long-term parishioner - are we getting a new P.A. system in the church?***

It is not scheduled for replacement - perhaps modification, upgrading or fine tuning when the other interior work is completed in the Church. **Concerns about the audio system should be addressed to the parish office.**

***Will there be new windows in the school?***

Not at this time. They are not needed. The windows in the multi-purpose **room** will be repaired or replaced as needed.

***Where will we attend Mass while the altar is pulled out?***

McClunn Hall, after it is renovated. This disruption should only be for a short period measured in weeks.

***When we talk about the school, are we talking about renovating or building new?***

**Renovation.** The building is sound and the cost of demolition and rebuilding would be extravagant.

***You mentioned that we need to prioritize with current economics, (school needs vs. church) how will you prioritize these changes?***

Safety and structural issues for the entire parish campus will be addressed first.

***When will the prioritization list happen?***

The charts in the glass cases outside the church entrance show the current level of prioritization. These will be fine tuned over time as we get the initial work underway

***To renovate the parking lot, what are your intentions? (i.e. resurface or completely new)***

Patch and eventual **resurfacing; replacement** is not planned or needed.

***The pledge is a 5 year pledge - do you want it (the money) equally over the 5 year period or more up front?***

The pledge period is five years, but the more given up front will reduce the amount we have to borrow against the pledges and will reduce the parish interest expense.

***Will the new arrangement allow for the Tridentine Mass?***

Yes

***Is there any money available from the diocese?***

No. The *Foundation for the Future Capital Campaign* is financed solely by the parishioners of Saint Louis Catholic Church.

***What is the parish mission - to spread the word of God or to fix buildings?***

It would be impossible to spread the Word of God through the Mass and the sacraments without buildings. Building, like people, age and need repair. The entire parish is praying that the campaign be a success. We should view it not so much in material terms, but as an opportunity for evangelization and for personal spiritual growth, by trusting that God will satisfy our parish's and our personal needs and by believing that His will can bring about great things through our combined efforts.

***Why do we have to change the doors into the Church?***

They do not meet ADA code and it is impossible for anyone in a wheelchair or walker to open the doors unassisted. Our beloved church is available to all seven days a week and twenty-four hours a day and we must ensure that they have access.

***Is nothing factored in for a multi-purpose room (other than McClunn) for funeral receptions, parish use, etc.?***

When renovation is completed, McClunn Hall can and probably will be used for most parish functions.

***Where and when are we in the process? When will we see a priority list? The concern is that cosmetic changes not come before structural changes. Will our money go for the essential needs of the school?***

We are in the planning stage and a current broad-brush priority list is (1) on this website; (2) in the presentation booklet you will receive when you have a visit from a member of the campaign committee; and, (3) also posted outside the church doors in the glass cases on the right as you enter the church. The priorities and their rationale are best explained in a thirty minute presentation by one of our committee members (either in your home or at the rectory) as they are only an extract from a larger document. As you look at the list, it is quite evident that safety and structural issues are of the highest priority and concern.

***How will the parishioners be informed of the choices made and progress made on projects undertaken?***

There will be a number of methods of communicating choices and progress. The bulletin and the website **always** will contain the most current and up to date information on progress and decisions. Being an active participant in one of our committees is also an excellent way of not only being aware of decisions and progress, but being part of the process itself. **We very much need your help in visiting others, working on the committees, and bringing others into the process.**

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Please send additional questions to: [questions@saintlouisparish.org](mailto:questions@saintlouisparish.org)