

## **THE CHALLENGE**

Saint Louis Parish has a noteworthy legacy of Christian influence within its community. That legacy has brought the congregation to the threshold of greater opportunity that, as in all opportunities, places the church at a decisive crossroads. While the sanctuary can accommodate additional growth, the ancillary space is inadequate - both in space provided and in configuration and most importantly - condition- for the level of participation that is being experienced in the church's programs, and for the administrative responsibilities of the clergy and staff. Incremental steps have been taken in the past to meet those needs as they developed. Those steps were appropriate for the circumstances faced by the members at those times, even as viewed from the current perspective, and have served the church well.

Today, however, Saint Louis is faced with immediate and serious needs that carry with them some unique considerations and a marvelous opportunity. When the condition and appropriateness of Saint Louis current facilities are viewed in the light of current needs, repairing and renovating them with designed for current and projected needs becomes a rational decision, though not without an emotional content. The simple fact that must be addressed is that the repairs must be made.

Meeting the church's capital requirements requires the generous, sacrificial support of each member.

Capital giving differs from annual pledging in several ways and customary giving patterns will not produce the desired results:

- Its returns are invested in permanent properties
- It is in response to pressing needs and takes place only when absolutely necessary
- It spreads out payments over a much longer period
- Its objective is for larger amounts than can be considered within the annual budget
- It requires a planned, sacrificial and inspirational effort and often involves giving real estate, securities, life insurance, or other tangible assets
- It is over and above annual pledges.