



Dear Parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Parish,

It's hard to believe the Summer is coming to an end and that Autumn, the opening of a new school year, and the return to regular schedules are upon us. As we embark on these new beginnings, I want to update you on our exciting plans for a Capital Campaign here at St. Vincent de Paul to support our parish's growth and development.

As you may recall, our Parish commissioned a study to assess a potential Capital Campaign in support of these efforts:

- Expand the Gathering Space in front of the Church to enhance community.
- Reconfigure our Church entrance and access points for greater ease of entry.
- Remodel our Sanctuary for greater reverence and spirituality.
- Modernize amenities for comfort and energy efficiency.
- Increase meeting room space for faith formation groups and activities.
- Optimize the De Paul Center (the former Notre Dame High School building) for:
  - A multi-purpose center and kitchen for social gatherings, weddings, and Fish Fries.
  - Dedicated space for service organizations.
  - New space for our Parish Offices.
  - More productive space for school use.
  - Dedicated space for our Parish Youth Ministry.
- Repurpose freed up space in our parish grade school, now shared for parish events, to better serve the needs of our school children, thereby creating a more secure school building. Also replace the roof on the school building's older section.

With Bishop Rice's approval, the Parish has engaged Dille Pollard Architecture to study the costs of these initiatives. We have begun to gather architectural drawings and cost estimates. Additionally, we have contracted Mrs. Gretchen Gambon, a seasoned parish campaign professional from Springfield, Missouri, to act as a guide through this important process.

In May and June, Mrs. Gambon led the Feasibility Study, which included 160 interviews with individuals and couples both in-person and via an online survey. I am very grateful to those who graciously took part in this process. The primary goals were to assess the feasibility of a campaign, gather parishioners' perceptions about our parish and a campaign, and evaluate support for and cost of these projects, while uncovering opportunities and challenges.

As promised to you a few weeks ago, the major findings of the study are as follows:

- The parish received good and above-standard responses/support in most areas of the study.
- St. Vincent de Paul is perceived as a caring, friendly, faith-filled, active, and generous parish.
- Both personal interviewees and online survey participants believe the parish is meeting their spiritual needs. In fact, these responses are well above the norm.
- People feel strongly and are committed to St. Vincent de Paul Parish and their fellow parishioners.
- Participants in the study-process rated communications as very good.
- The project has strong support; however, parishioners would like our needs prioritized and more details about the proposed uses of a new Parish Hall/Center. They also would like additional information on the proposed renovations to the Gathering Space and Sanctuary.
- Support exists for launching a campaign and moving forward with the projects.

These findings are both positive and encouraging. We have already begun implementing the seventeen core recommendations identified in the study, and we continue to make significant progress toward our goals.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to our campaign volunteers and to all of you for keeping an open mind as we consider the future of our parish facilities. Mrs. Gambon met with campaign volunteers earlier this month, and progress continues. Please know that our actions are and will continue to be the result of a tremendous amount of thought, prayerful discernment, and planning based on the data we have gathered and the goals we will work toward to keep our parish relevant, vital, and of maximum service to our parishioners.

My hope, prayer, and request are that everyone in our parish community be clear on our plans for readying our parish campus for the next 50 years of spiritual, educational, and communal development. This is an opportunity for every family to be involved in our parish community and spiritual life for the future of our parish.

This is a vital time for our parish, and a proud moment for me as your Pastor. I am excited to be sharing this journey with all of you. As we move into the fall months, please know I will continue to provide regular updates on this important process. Your continued involvement, prayers, and support are critical as we work together to envision the future of St. Vincent de Paul Parish. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to reach out.

You have my love, appreciation, and prayers as we continue to envision the hope-filled future of St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

Peace,  
*Reverend Rick L. Jones*  
Pastor

