



February 1, 2010

Dear Old St. Mary's Parishioner:

When we announced the Traditions Shaping Tomorrow Capital Campaign in 2008, we noted that Old St. Mary's Parish and the Paulist Fathers stand at an exciting and challenging crossroad. Not only are we the oldest parish in the Archdiocese, but we are also one of the fastest growing and most vibrant parishes.

With this growth, we have truly become an anchor in the Archdiocese and in our community. It is time for us to move through this crossroad into a bright future, prepared to provide for the needs of our many and diverse parishioners. We must support our multiple ministries, offer convenient access to worship, create an accommodating Parish Center and cafeteria for all parish functions, and continue to educate our children with the excellence now expected of Old St. Mary's School. This will take commitment and sacrifice on the part of every parishioner.

The Traditions Shaping Tomorrow Capital Campaign began taking pledges in late 2007 with 62 school families pledging approximately \$1.7 million to be paid over the next five years. That amount has grown to \$2.6 million as new families join our parish. This year, we are educating over 170 children at our school – an amazing increase from the 18 children in our inaugural class in 2004.

We are now asking the entire parish to support and contribute to the campaign.

Time is of the essence, as we will run out of room in our school building after the current school year (2009/2010). Parish space is also cramped, with different ministries and social groups vying for appropriate rooms to meet in.

Our plans have received the enthusiastic support of the Archdiocese and Francis Cardinal George, but we need to prove that they are supported by the parish as a whole.

The only way we can demonstrate this is for each family in the parish to pray for guidance and complete a pledge form. Your pledge can be an outright gift, or can be spread over a five-year (or less) period. Many parishioners find that they are able to participate in a way they never dreamed possible, by spreading their gift over a number of years.

Please help us demonstrate to the Archdiocese and the entire Chicago Catholic community that Old St. Mary's stands willing and able to embrace its future as a strong and vibrant parish. We will continue our traditions of welcome, of faith and family, of reaching out to the community, and of educating our children in the Catholic faith.

We are a very blessed and fortunate faith community. With the success of the campaign and with the participation of all parishioners, we will return some of the blessings we enjoy to generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration and generosity. Please be sure to complete and return a pledge form. Feel free to call if you have any questions, or if you would like to discuss your pledge with us.

Sincerely,

*FR MIKE*

(Rev.) Michael Kallock, CSP  
Pastor  
Old St. Mary's Parish

Bill McErlean  
Chair  
Traditions Shaping Tomorrow Capital Campaign