

# FAITH

IN OUR FUTURE

ST. ROBERT PARISH

## WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE FUTURE!

These are exciting, inspiring times at St. Robert Parish as we are considering our commitments to the *Faith In Our Future* Campaign. Support is building as more and more parishioners learn about *Faith In Our Future*, a joint effort on the part of all parishes in southeastern Wisconsin and the archdiocese. At St. Robert Parish, the goal is to raise \$2.15 million, contributing to an overall campaign objective of \$105 million.

FAITH IN OUR PARISHES, YOUTH AND ADULTS  
*Faith In Our Future* will strengthen parishes, schools and lifelong faith formation efforts throughout the archdiocese. These are among Archbishop Timothy Dolan's pastoral priorities for the

Catholic Church of southeastern Wisconsin. In addition, this campaign will support the global church.

### FAITH IN EACH OTHER

We want everyone to enjoy the blessings of Catholic education and faith formation. We need each other to make it happen. In this newsletter, you'll find information on making a commitment, Commitment Gatherings and our Commitment Weekend at St. Robert Parish. We invite you to participate and pray as you consider your contribution to *Faith In Our Future*.

## YOU'RE INVITED!

Every parishioner is an important member of our parish family. You are cordially invited and warmly encouraged to attend one of the Faith In Our Future Commitment Weekend liturgies and our special St. Nick Celebration Dinner! Please join us as we worship together, give thanks and make our commitment to strengthen Catholic education and life-long faith formation at St. Robert Parish.

Commitment Weekend Special Events:

ST. NICK CELEBRATION DINNER, Friday,  
December 5, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m., St. Robert School Gym.  
Join us for this festive, free dinner to celebrate this season of giving! Fun, food, music, kids' crafts and fellowship.

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE COMMITMENT WEEKEND  
LITURGIES, December 6-7

## QUESTIONS ABOUT COMMITMENTS

### WHAT IS A COMMITMENT CARD AND WHY USE IT?

First, our campaign commitment card is a simple statement of intent, not a contract. Knowledge of what dollar amounts to expect is critical to plan wisely for our future.

### IS MY COMMITMENT CONFIDENTIAL?

Absolutely. It will not be used in any public way.

### IF NECESSARY, MAY I CHANGE MY COMMITMENT?

Of course. Should your circumstances change and you need to alter your giving plan, please contact our parish office.

### WHEN DO I RECEIVE MY CARD?

All cards are distributed and returned during Commitment Weekend. If you are unable to attend, you will receive your commitment card in the mail with instructions on how to complete and return it.

## GUIDELINES FOR GIVING

**GIVE FIRST.** I will make the first use of my income an act of faithfulness to a loving Lord.

**GIVE GRATEFULLY.** I will bring to mind God's gifts and ways that money can matter for eternity.

**GIVE FAITHFULLY.** I will cultivate the discipline of faithfulness regardless of how I feel at the time.

**GIVE PROPORTIONATELY.** I will give happily in accordance with the resources I have been given and compare my gift to no others.

**GIVE GENEROUSLY.** I will listen as scripture teaches me to give generously just as God has bestowed wonderful gifts upon me.

**GIVE SACRIFICIALLY.** I will practice giving in a way that expresses my love of God. I will recognize that both God and I know when a gift comes from my heart.

**GIVE CHEERFULLY.** I know from scripture that God delights in and loves a cheerful giver.

**GIVE FREELY.** I will attach no strings or expectations to my gift. I will seek nothing—particularly public recognition—in return.

**GIVE PERSONALLY.** I will invest myself, my time, and my talent. I will allow each member of my family the same opportunity for personal involvement.

**GIVE QUIETLY.** I will give without fanfare. God sees, and that is all that matters. I will never seek to draw attention, but I will be prepared to explain why I give.

**GIVE EXPECTANTLY.** I will look for ways to share my gifts, bear another's burden, or contribute my resources to God.

**GIVE WORSHIPFULLY.** I will acknowledge that God is the author of giving. I will recall that God has given me everything that I possess, including my very life. I especially remember that God gave all humanity His very own son so that we might experience eternal life.

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**FAITH IN OUR FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER!**

You are invited to learn more about the *Faith in our Future* campaign at these upcoming events:

PRAYER, DISCERNMENT AND DECISION MAKING: REFLECTING ON OUR PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP, November 10 - December 5

COMMITMENT WEEKEND GATHERING: ST. NICK CELEBRATION DINNER, Friday, December 5, 5:30-8 p.m., St. Robert School Gym

COMMITMENT WEEKEND LITURGIES, December 6-7

CELEBRATION WEEKEND: ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF OUR PARISH COMMITMENT TO STEWARDSHIP, December 27-28



**ONE FAMILY'S STORY**

The Schneider family made a \$3,000 pledge to their parish campaign, but of late, Ann Schneider had come to believe that God wanted her to double their family's commitment. She knew this would not sit well with the family - they had already made significant adjustments to pledge the \$3,000. She gathered the family to explain her desire and to consider a plan.

She asked each family member to pray for three weeks, asking God to reveal where current expenditures could be freed to increase giving. Then, on Sunday, they would discuss their ideas. As a family, they would assign a dollar amount to each suggestion and decide whether or not to pursue it. If God showed them nothing, the family would simply not pledge the additional \$3,000.

Four weeks later the Schneiders had 20 wide-ranging strategies to increase their giving. As a family of four who dined out twice a month, they were spending about \$80 a month. Dining out was cut to once a month, and \$40 per month went to the campaign. In the same spirit, they re-evaluated their other leisure activities including going to the movies, cable, magazine subscriptions, etc.

Ken, the middle-school age son, began to take his lunch to school rather than buy it, netting \$20 per month. Jessica, in high school, cut back on weekly outings with friends and dedicated another \$25 per month to the effort. Individually, each family member made suggestions and offered personal sacrifices. Eventually, their ideas totaled just over \$85 per month - \$3,000 over the course of three years.

"I never dreamed we could do it, but we are pleased God can use us to work through our Church this way," Ann Schneider said. "We are stronger and a better family for it."

Not surprisingly, the family's plan was easier to suggest than to maintain. Stephen, the husband and father, said the first three months were very difficult. After that, however, what had been difficult became easy. "We discovered that what we thought were necessities were not necessities at all," he said. "It took us three months to discover that."

Struggle is the nature of sacrifice. This story illustrates what one family, firmly committed to its faith, can achieve through trust in each other and dependance on God.