



**A Status Report for St. Robert Parishioners
March 28, 2009**

Pledges surpass Benchmark amount but are still short of Parish Goal of \$2.1 million. Broader parish support is critical for the Campaign to reach its full potential. Our Faith In Our Future (FIOF) Campaign Closing Celebration is set for the weekend of April 25th & 26th.

To date St. Robert Parish has raised \$1,138,162. A number we should be proud of. We have surpassed our benchmark. To refresh your memory, our Benchmark was the goal for FIOF set by the Archdiocese for our campaign – a number equal to our annual stewardship = \$1,010, 403. Up to our Benchmark we keep 60% of the funds for our parish initiatives and 40% goes toward Archdiocesan initiatives. Since we have surpassed our Benchmark we are now in the 80% - 20% split – more of our dollars raised are staying here with our parish.

However, we are still well short of the amount needed to complete our FIOF initiatives. Admittedly, we set our sights high with a \$2.1 million dollar goal. As we reflected on the past and those who built St. Robert Parish, we wanted to prepare to celebrate our parish's 100th anniversary by strengthening it for the next 100 years. The initiatives were chosen to appeal to the broadest possible number of people. With the funds raised to date we are able to complete **only** the first two initiatives on the list and apply some funds to the third. The FIOF parish initiatives are listed below in priority order along with the dollars assigned to each of them:

1. Accessibility \$600,000
2. St. Jude School in Uganda \$50,000
3. Media Resource Center \$200,000
4. Carpeting for Sanctuary and Gathering Space \$40,000
5. Eucharistic Adoration Chapel \$10,000
6. Endowment for Religious Education \$100,000
7. Capitol Reserve Fund \$500,000

To date only 205 parishioners have made a gift or pledge. This is a number that is very disappointing. Our campaign consultant advised us that a parish our size (1,175 families) could expect about 300-400 pledges and many of the other Archdiocese parishes have experienced those levels of participation. We are still well under where we should be. Are there outside challenges that affected the success of our campaign? That is an understatement! Of course there are. But the needs of the parish and its many important ministries still remain our responsibility.

Perhaps the generosity of our early pledges that started our campaign made some parishioners feel that significantly smaller gifts or pledges were inappropriate or even unnecessary. This is definitely not the case! Whether you make a one time gift or a multi-year pledge we really hope you participate.

Perhaps you are concerned about confidentiality of your gift. Please rest assured that only three people at St. Robert are aware of gift amounts – Fr. Dennis, Elizabeth Cleveland (Parish Business Manager) and Lisa Lesjak (FIOF Campaign Coordinator).

Perhaps you are unwilling to support all of the parish initiatives. We have received restricted gifts for several of the specific initiatives. Perhaps you do not want to support the Archdiocesan initiatives. Restrict your gift only to St. Robert Parish.

On the weekend of April 25th & 26th we will conclude the FIOF Campaign with the announcement of our final Campaign achievement, publish an alphabetic list of all participating parishioners and celebrate our success and fellowship at the conclusion of each Mass.

If you have already made a FIOF gift or pledge, THANK YOU for your wonderful generosity and thank you for taking the time to read this update.

If you have yet to make a gift or pledge, please consider doing so as soon as possible. If there is a reason that you feel unwilling to participate, you are encouraged to contact Lisa Lesjak, Fr. Dennis or any of the FIOF Campaign Chairs to discuss your concern. Future generations of St. Robert parishioners will benefit from our sacrifices and the Campaign's success!

Rev. Dennis A. Dirx
Pastor

Norm & Susan Balthasar

Matt & Patty Linn

Joe & Tara O'Neill

Faith In Our Future Campaign Chairs