Treasure Our Past, Build Our Future

A Campaign To Build Our New Church

OUR LADY of the BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

Westfield, Massachusetts
My dear people of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish:

The words of the hymn tell us, “We will build the City of God.” Truly that seems to be happening in the Parish of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. The community is growing and binding more closely together as a community of faith, that community of faith is looking for a fitting church in which to worship; the project will not be about just bricks and mortar, but much more about bearing witness to Christ.

As you build your new church, you will be providing another opportunity for the Catholic family to grow in faith. You will be furnishing an environment where the basis of the Christian life will be nurtured with love and respect, knowledge and understanding, forgiveness and prayer. By participating in the Capital Campaign, you will be making a sacrifice, but the sacrifice will be for the future of the community, for those yet to come, building up faith and a sense of prayerful giving to the Lord. May the Holy Spirit be the guide in all that is done.

I join your Pastor, Father Dan Pacholec, in asking for your sacrifices and support for this new church facility. The accomplishment of the goal lies in the efforts of the entire parish family, working together to do the Lord’s work and turning challenges into achievements.

God bless you for all you have done so far, all your past generosity, all that has made Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament a parish that truly builds up the “City of God,” and thank you especially for your serious consideration of the present campaign.

You are in my prayers – keep me in yours.

With every best wish,

In Christ,

Most Reverend Timothy A. McDonnell
Bishop of Springfield
September 2005

My Dear Parishioners,

We are all fortunate to be members of an amazing and vibrant parish community here at our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. For ninety-five years, as individuals, families, neighbors, friends and clergy, we have come together to celebrate the mystery of God's love and His blessings in our lives. Our parish continues to have a wonderful spirit among its members, as we are led by the Spirit of God, to new and exciting years ahead.

As we are all aware, we have embarked on a journey that has taken us from our former church on Union Street, to our temporary home on Holyoke Road. Though we have settled in well, we know that the Parish Center is not the final destination of our journey. We have been blessed with the exciting opportunity to build a new church for ourselves and future generations. As you may know, after all expenses, we received $1,800,000 from the city and state for our former church. In the next year we hope to add to that, the proceeds (as yet undetermined) from the future sale of our rectory and its surrounding land. The new church is estimated to cost approximately $4,500,000, thus we have a great challenge before us!

The Capital Campaign we now begin, “Treasure Our Past, Build Our Future”, is a means for every member of our parish to further be involved in continuing the dream of Fr. O’Connor, former pastor of our parish, whose vision it was to build a new church one day on Holyoke Road, next to our Parish Center. We who make up the family that is now Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, must do our part. As we look to the needs of the future, we do treasure our past and the work of so many who helped build our former church, our current Parish Center, and the community of faith which we now enjoy.

I am asking your help, and encourage you to give prayerful consideration to being part of this capital campaign. The parishioners of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament have always meet the needs and challenges of our parish. I believe you will continue that wonderful legacy!

May God continue to bless you and all those you love.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Daniel S. Pacholec
Pastor
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish was established in 1910 with the first mass celebrated in a newly erected church on Passion Sunday, April 2, 1911. Years later, two horses used pulleys to move the building one-quarter mile to its location on Union Street. Now, after more than 90 years, our parish has moved again, in large part due to the vision of one of our former pastors, Fr. Timothy O’Connor. Fr. O’Connor purchased the land where our new worship space will be located and where the Parish Center was constructed in 1961.

“You can be sure that your investment will still be working for you one hundred years from now.”
- Fr. Timothy O’Connor

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish has become a wonderful blending of individuals and families that celebrate their diverse cultures and rich traditions. The parish not only serves the needs of its own Catholic families, but also those of other faiths in our community. Our ministries and outreach are strong in faith and works.

Today, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament has more than 1,600 registered families. Our parish has grown in size in the past year and it is projected that more families will register after our new Church is built!

We have known for over three years that we would need to build a new church. This is a great time in our history. As our founders did over 90 years ago, we too will leave our mark upon the landscape of this community. This is the beginning of a new era in the long and celebrated history of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish. Our Church has moved, and the Holy Spirit has joined us in our travels. The building of our new worship space is an opportunity to continue the mission left to us by Jesus, to do God’s work, and it will take sacrifice from all as together we grow His Church.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR PROJECT

The building of our new sanctuary is the necessary response to the growth and development of the Westfield area. Based on the initial architectural plans, with preliminary interior and exterior designs, the estimated cost for the permanent sanctuary is projected be approximately $4,500,000. Construction cannot begin until the parish has finalized all plans, received appropriate permits and gained the necessary approval of the Diocese of Springfield. With the “Treasure Our Past, Build Our Future” campaign, we must raise a minimum of $1,500,000 to begin our project.

Although our current facilities will service our spiritual needs in the short term, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament will need a dedicated worship space. We hope to start construction quickly and to have our new church open as soon as possible. It is estimated that construction will take approximately 12-24 months to complete. Now we are called to action for our common future.

In addition to the building costs stated above, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament also hopes to sell the rectory in the near future, with the net proceeds put towards the cost of the new church.

“Give and gifts will be given to you... for the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”
Luke 6:38
Based on the financial standing of the parish, and the estimated construction costs, our goal in the “Treasure Our Past, Build Our Future” Campaign is to raise at least $1,500,000.

This project is a great challenge. We are reminded that this faith community has exceeded expectations time and again, in every endeavor and category. Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament family believes in responding to the call to sacrifice. Now we must supply the financial means to bring our current goals to fruition, by doing all that we can with our resources. All we have are gifts from God, which bind us to wise stewardship in His name. With the commitment, sacrifice and prayers of each member of our parish family, we will achieve our goals and build our new Church. It is a gift to us, the people of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament and will be part of our legacy to the future of our parish. With the sacrificial participation of each of us, we will further unite, and truly live up to the theme “Treasure Our Past, Build Our Future”.
How to Pledge Your Support

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish needs to raise $1,500,000 in this campaign. Every member of our community of faith is invited to participate by making a pledge or contribution to the best of their ability. The gift of each and every parish family is integral to the success of our campaign.

Specifically, each family is asked to consider making a pledge of $3,600 or more, payable over the next 3 years. This pledge may be paid with a 10% down payment and then with monthly installments of $90 for 36 months. This breaks down even further to $2.96 per day. (See Suggested Gift Plans for a complete breakdown of donating options.)

We know ahead of time that what we are asking will be a real challenge for many of our parish families. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to the success of this campaign that those who are able to make a pledge of this size or larger, please do so. In addition, specific Memorial gift opportunities will also be available. Our community has indeed shared in God’s blessings. We turn to you, our parish family, because your special generosity is vital. Please pray for the success of our campaign and give consideration toward making a generous and sacrificial pledge to this vital effort.

We, the faith community of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, must supply the financial means to bring this project to a successful conclusion by doing all that we can with our resources. With the commitment, sacrifice and prayers of each member of our parish family, we will be able to realize our goals.

How Everyone Can Get Involved

Throughout the “Treasure Our Past, Build Our Future” Campaign, Father Dan, the Campaign Committee and volunteer workers will reach out to all members of our community to communicate the vision of our parish for today and the future and describe how everyone can get involved. Several important events are being held in order to give every parish family an opportunity to participate.

First, there will be a series of campaign receptions. Every registered family will be invited to attend one of these special gatherings that allow our parishioners the opportunity to gather as a family and learn about the needs of our parish.

Parishioners will also be able to learn about our campaign through this brochure. Every family is asked to consider all the information contained in this brochure and then make a prayerful decision about how they will support this effort. Those who do not respond will be personally contacted by fellow parishioners who will volunteer their time over several weeks for the success of the campaign. The volunteers, members of your parish family, will be giving their time to undertake the vital task of making personal contact and increasing the awareness of this campaign.

Whether you participate by attending a campaign reception, responding at Mass or by mail, or by graciously receiving a parish volunteer into your home, it is your act of involvement that will make this campaign a success.

As You Make Your Gift, Please Remember...

- Payments may be made over a period of 3 years. A longer period can be arranged if necessary.
- Pledge payments are in addition to your regular weekly offering contribution. Your pledge payments to this campaign will be used for the specific parish needs outlined in this brochure.
- Payment reminders and a special payment envelope will be mailed to you in accordance with the payment plan you choose.
- Pledge payments are fully deductible for tax purposes.
- Payments can be made via credit card or by automatic debit from your checking account.
- Please make checks payable to: “Treasure Our Past” Campaign
SUGGESTED GIFT PLANS  { over a 3 year pledge period }

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TAX ADVANTAGES OF THOUGHTFUL GIVING

Federal and state laws on income and inheritance taxes encourage charitable giving. All contributions to our campaign are tax deductible for those who itemize their deductions.

It is particularly advantageous for some people to contribute appreciated securities, stocks, real property, or other valuables. The current fair market value of securities or property is deductible and by transferring these assets to the church and allowing the church to cash out the item, the donor pays no capital gains tax. In these cases, **The Item Must Be Transferred To The Church Before Being Cashed Out In Order For The Donor To Receive The Full Tax Deduction.** In many cases, the tax savings are more than your investment in the gift.

For substantial gifts of property, other than marketable securities, the IRS requires an appraisal. Because each situation is unique, we urge you to discuss such donations within your family. You may also wish to discuss it with your financial advisor.

MATCHING GIFTS

Many members of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament may be employees or retirees of companies with a matching gift program. A matching gift program may allow a donor to double or even triple the size of the pledge through employer contributions.

Simply contact your personnel office for the appropriate form, complete the donor portion, and then forward the form with your pledge card to the campaign office. We will then complete the form, return it to the company and watch your generosity grow!

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAMPAIGN ARE FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE FOR THOSE WHO ITEMIZE THEIR TAXES! PLEDGES ARE NOT LEGALLY BINDING, BUT RATHER AN INDICATION OF YOUR INTENTION TO DONATE.**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN OR MAKING YOUR PLEDGE, PLEASE CONTACT OUR ON-SITE CAMPAIGN OFFICE AT (413) 562-3450.
Many people contribute to the life of our parish and provide vision for the future. Our deepest gratitude extends to those who have given the gift of their time and talents to make this new Church project successful for Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish.

PARISH STAFF
Rev. Daniel S. Pacholec, Pastor
Rev. Michael C. Lillpopp, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mr. Paul Federici, Deacon

CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP
Pete Whelan
Don Blair
Don Byram
John Chistolini
Hubert McGovern
Joseph Murray

DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT
GUIDANCE IN GIVING, INC.  
Stewardship, Development & Campaign Consultants

225 Snedecor Avenue
Bayport, New York 11705
888.757.5444
www.guidanceingiving.com

PRINTING
OUIMETTE PRINTING COMPANY
40 Kelso Avenue
West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089
tel 413.736.5926 / fax 413.736.5781
www.ouimetteprinting.com

“It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.”

Mark 4:31-32

Treasure Our Past, Build Our Future
CAMPAIGN PRAYER

“Christ has no body but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion must look upon the world.
Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good.
Yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.”

MOTHER TERESA

Your Decision To Give

No one can tell you how much you should give. The individual parishioner/family is the only one who actually decides what to contribute, since the financial obligations of each family are different. What you give will be held in the strictest confidence.

This is our parish and only through sacrifice can we achieve our goals. All contributions from the smallest to the largest will be gratefully appreciated. Your decision is a personal one. It should be made in good conscience and in true Christian spirit.