



Feasibility Study Update



March 24, 2016

Dear St. Benedict Community,

Thank you for participating in our Feasibility Study this past January and February. Feedback from our parishioners, school families, and alumni was crucial and deeply appreciated. St. Benedict is your community and your insights and opinions must guide the decisions of leadership. As you may know, prior to the study, a Building Committee developed preliminary plans for infrastructure improvements in the School and Church. This winter's study evaluated our readiness for a capital campaign to fund these projects and gathered your opinions about the project.

Based on the results we believe that our community can raise between \$2.5 and \$3 million dollars in a capital campaign. This number is based on self-identified giving intentions as well as projections that take into account our history of stewardship and the number of families in both the parish and school. Approximately \$2 million of this would come from school and parish families and includes the likelihood of securing over \$200,000 in employer matching funds. There is also strong potential for up to \$1 million in grant funding. If grant funding is secured, a \$3 million goal is well within our range.

Again many factors went into determining these numbers: Eighty-two people participated in an interview with our consultant, Kris Wallace of *Capital Campaign Consulting*. Two-hundred, forty-two (242) surveys were returned (61 of these were from our school families).

We asked for your opinion and you gave it. Here's a sampling of the diverse opinions that were shared:

- St. Benedict is a parish that is in flux and stabilizing under new leadership
- Maintenance is a top priority (see chart on page 2)
- Gymnasium is critical to drawing in new students, strengthening the Physical Education program and competing with other local public and private schools
- Outreach and ministry are the core of the parish mission and should remain the focus always
- The parish/school should not get in "over our heads" financially

In the end, some level of support was expressed for each of the proposed projects. **Consensus was found in two specific areas: 1. Priority of safety and maintenance and, 2. Ensuring the school's future viability.**

Given these shared priorities and the recommended campaign goal, we will need to adapt our original plans. After gathering input from a number of sources we have decided to move forward with two separate capital campaigns, over the next 6 years. The first campaign will focus on seismic upgrades and infrastructure to both the church and the school buildings. The pledge drive, itself, will take about 4 months and kick-off in September 2016. It will have a 3-year pledge period and we look to raise approximately \$2.5 million dollars.

It is important that we continue to pursue the dream of a Multi-Purpose Facility/Gymnasium. It is certainly within our reach if we are patient and plan wisely. To that end, work has already begun to map a realistic financial path to a Multi-Purpose Center/Gymnasium. This path will include a second capital campaign that begins after this initial 3-year pledge period, likely in 2019. In the meantime, we can work on grant funding, community support, and event-based fundraising toward this goal.

We are very excited to announce that much needed infrastructure work connected with the first capital campaign is in our immediate future. As many of you have heard the pipes which provide water to the school building are failing and must be replaced this summer. We are going to take advantage of this project which cannot be delayed to also remodel the school’s bathrooms. In speaking with our contractors there will be a significant cost savings if both projects are completed at once. As pledge money comes in from the first campaign we will “repay” ourselves for the costs of these projects.

We understand that there may be some disappointment that the Multi-Purpose Facility is delayed for a short time. We also believe that a focus on infrastructure is crucial: we are strengthening our parish and school from within. These improvements will ensure a strong foundation, literally and figuratively, when we are ready for the new construction.

Thank you in advance for your prayers, help and support as we move forward. You will be receiving more details in the coming months.

Dn. Roy Harrington, Pastoral Coordinator

Brian Anderson, Principal

