



January 3, 2012

Dear Old St. Mary's Parishioner:

Old St. Mary's Parish has built a new school. We are thrilled to be one of the few parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago with enough growth to warrant such a project!

When we announced the Traditions Shaping Tomorrow Capital Campaign (now called A Place to Grow) 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 south loop community. As we move through this crossroad into a bright future, we are prepared to provide for the needs of our many and diverse parishioners. We will 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 \$2.9 million as new families join our parish. This year we are educating over 260 children in our new 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.

In addition to needing a new school building, our Parish space is also cramped. Currently different ministries and social groups are vying for appropriate rooms to meet.

Our plans building and expansion received the enthusiastic support of the Archdiocese and Francis Cardinal George – who believe in our parish so much that they granted us a loan to begin construction before we raised the money necessary to pay for the project. Now we need to show them that we share the same faith in Old St. Mary's.

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. Feel free to call if you have any questions, or if you would like to discuss your pledge.

Sincerely,

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