



Come together
as children of
God,
Grow into our
faith,
Serve God in
others,
**Make a
Difference** for
ourselves, for
others, and for
the world.

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Parishioners Voice Strong Support for Campaign

In February, Church Development (CD) of Kansas City, Missouri, conducted a Feasibility Study to determine the support of the church membership for a capital campaign to fund the construction of a Parish Hall, accompanying renovation and additional staff.

A total of 175 individuals from 124 households participated in the study, representing 41% of the total households of St. Thomas. Following are results from the report.

Findings

- ❖ Ninety-five percent (95%) of all study respondents agreed or strongly agreed that St. Thomas is effectively meeting their spiritual needs.
- ❖ Ninety-four percent (94%) of those in the study agreed or strongly agreed that

St. Thomas is effective in providing them opportunities for community/fellowship.

- ❖ Ninety-six percent (96%) of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they are confident in the rector, church staff and volunteer leaders to make wise decisions regarding the future of the church.

- ❖ Ninety-two percent (92%) of all study respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the financial condition of St. Thomas is strong.

❖ Percent of positive responses for three funding options for Phase I of the Master Plan:

1. Have a three-year capital campaign, then if needed finance any remaining amount through a bank loan. **77%**



2. Have a three-year capital campaign, then if needed have a second campaign to raise additional funds. **38%**

3. Have a three-year capital campaign, then if needed offer parishioners an option to extend current pledges. **63%**

- ❖ Ninety-five percent (95%) of all study respondents thought the rest of the church would be supportive or very supportive of a capital campaign.

Continued on reverse side

From Father Gar, Sue Elliott and Bob Beeler

Dear Friends,

First, I want to thank everyone in the parish who participated in the Feasibility Study through interviews and the written survey. About 41 percent of the parish households answered the survey questions. Darryl Prater, our campaign consultant from

Church Development, told us this was exceptional—far above the usual 15-25 percent response of most churches.

Your answers to the questions as well as your comments have assisted the vestry in its decision to move ahead with a campaign to build a new Parish Hall and

fund other renovations and adding staff. During the upcoming campaign, we will have a number of events for you to get all of your questions answered and express any concerns you may have.

Continued on reverse side

Parishioners Voice Strong Support continued from front

❖ Seventy percent (70%) of the study participants said they consider it urgent for St. Thomas to move ahead now with a capital campaign to raise funds for Phase I of the Master Plan estimated at \$2.8 million.

❖ Eighty-four percent (84%) of the respondents indicated they would be willing to make a financial commitment to a capital campaign (10% were neutral and 6% responded no).

❖ Seventy-six (76) households (approximately 25% of the church households) offered an unofficial financial commitment to a capital campaign, collectively totaling \$1,106,595 (39.5% of the total needed for Phase I of the Master Plan).

❖ Seventy-three (73) persons indicated they were interested in serving as a volunteer on one of the capital campaign teams.

Concerns

I. There is some anxiety about the current economy and how this could affect the

giving in a capital campaign. Concern was voiced about those on fixed incomes.

2. A few of the respondents feel the scope and cost of Phase I of the Master Plan is too large for St. Thomas.

3. Many feel it is a priority to get an assistant rector in place as soon as possible. However, there was an awareness that this was going to take place in July 2011.

Recommendations

1. Begin a capital campaign immediately and use the leadership's target date of June 12, 2011 (Pentecost) for a Commitment Sunday.

2. The campaign should focus on prayer and should be a discerning implementation of God's will.

3. Emphasize the sacrifices that have been made in the past by members to build and maintain the church building.

4. Include a major donor effort to ensure that a variety of financial commitments are represented in the campaign.

5. Communicate clearly the specifics of each project component with as much detail as possible.

6. Involve all members of the church in the dialogue about the plans and campaign, especially those who are modestly involved and those who seldom attend.

7. Encourage donations of property, stocks and bonds throughout the campaign.

8. Commit to a high level of membership involvement to guide the process.

Financial Forecast

Based on the church's annual unrestricted giving of \$654,167 and the results of the Feasibility Study, Church Development forecasts that St. Thomas has a 90% probability it can raise **\$1,600,000**, a 70% probability it can raise **\$2,000,000** and a 50% probability it can raise **\$2,800,000** in a well-run, three-year capital campaign based on member involvement, clear communication and prayerful discernment.

***YOU Are Invited
to Join one of
the Campaign
Teams!***



**Sunday
March 20
Noon-1:30 p.m.
Parish Hall**

AGENDA

Introduction of Team
Co-Leaders



Explanation of Team Roles
and Responsibilities



Individual Team Meetings

**Lunch and childcare
will be provided at
the meeting**

**RSVP to Meribeth Risebig
by Thursday, March 17
at the parish office
mrisebig@stthomasop.org
or call (913) 451-0512.**

From Father Gar continued from front



A new Parish Hall is one of the goals of this campaign

This campaign will involve all members of our parish. You will need to decide at what level you want to participate.

On Sunday, March 20 you can join one of the campaign teams. (See details to the right.) Please consider sharing some of your time and expertise for a short period of time during the campaign.

Please keep yourself informed about the campaign through these newsletters, our web site and Facebook page. I also ask that you and all members of St. Thomas remember our parish, our

mission and this campaign in your daily prayers.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Blessings,

Gar Demo, Rector
Sue Elliott, Sr. Warden
Bob Beeler, Jr. Warden