

WHAT HAPPENS IF OUR PARISH DOESN'T HIT ITS CAMPAIGN PARISH TARGET?

In short, there is no penalty or assessment of a parish that falls short of its target. Parish targets are aspirational. The only expectation is that pastors and parish leaders make a good-faith effort to follow the recommendations of the diocese and the Steier Group in conducting the campaign.

DOES THIS TAKE THE PLACE OF THE DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL (DSA)?

No. The DSA is an annual appeal that supports the ongoing, day-to-day work of the Church in our diocese. That funding remains a critical need even as the campaign provides funding for extraordinary priorities. Both types of gifts are necessary and responsible uses of the financial gifts we are given by God.

None of the gifts made to the campaign will benefit any diocesan offices or programs.

WHERE WILL DONORS SEND THEIR GIFTS, AND WHERE WILL THE MONEY BE HELD?

Pledge redemption processing will be managed by The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Lansing, which will also manage the endowments for associated campaign priorities. Funds will be held at and distributed by The Catholic Foundation.



WHAT FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT MEASURES DOES THE DIOCESE UTILIZE?

The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Lansing administers and oversees the campaign on behalf of the diocese. The Foundation is a separately incorporated non-profit organization. Its board of directors is charged with advancing the Foundation's mission, to inspire giving and steward funds for the work of the Catholic Church throughout the Diocese of Lansing, through proper governance and accountability to the people of the diocese.

WHAT KIND OF FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY CAN WE EXPECT DURING THE CAMPAIGN AND BEYOND?

Transparency is a top priority for the Diocese of Lansing and The Catholic Foundation. Regular updates on campaign priorities, parish projects and fundraising totals will be regularly communicated to parish leaders and the public-at-large through a number of avenues – bulletins, emails, social media, *FAITH* Magazine, just to name a few.

WILL ANY MONEY FROM THE CAMPAIGN BE USED TO PAY ABUSE CLAIMS?

No. The funds raised through the campaign are restricted and can only be used for the priorities identified in the campaign case statement (On Mission, Affordable, Accessible, Local Initiatives). They cannot be used to pay for anything other than those priorities.



WILL FUNDS FOR THE CAMPAIGN REDUCE OFFERTORY SUPPORT FOR THE PARISH?

Gifts to this campaign should not reduce other commitments to your parish and/or to the Diocesan Services Appeal. We encourage gifts that are above and beyond, given freely and faithfully to meet the extraordinary opportunities presented through the campaign.

HOW DO YOU DETERMINE THE PLEDGE AMOUNTS THAT FAMILIES ARE ASKED TO CONSIDER?

Each household will be invited to consider prayerfully a specific sacrificial pledge to the campaign. Request amounts are based on several factors: planning study results, families' history of parish support, input from church leadership, and the understanding that for this to be successful it will require sacrificial gifts. In other words, if the amount you are asked for is more than you anticipated, it generally means that you have been a generous supporter of your parish and/or the diocese. We are asking everyone to make a gift or pledge that is meaningful and sacrificial and in a manner that works well for each family. It is not our intention to offend or embarrass anyone. The amount requested is NOT an expectation. It is an invitation to participate. How much you end up pledging is, of course, your own faith-guided decision. We will be grateful for any support you offer.

WILL GIVING TO THE CAMPAIGN CREATE HARDSHIP FOR OUR PARISHIONERS?

This campaign is founded on stewardship, our belief that we give back in gratitude a portion of what we've been given by God. Stewardship isn't just for the good times in life when we can give easily. It's for all times, including the difficult. We may adjust how much we give, or to whom we give, but we continue to give – in gratitude for and in proportion to what we've been given. A sacrificial gift demonstrates our trust that God will provide what we need, though not necessarily what we want. Stewardship isn't what keeps us from getting through the tough parts of life. It's what helps us get through them. It is first about our need to give, rather than giving to a need.

WHY DO YOU EMPHASIZE MAKING A PLEDGE?

Pledges allow donors to consider giving more than might be possible through one-time gifts. Also, spreading payments over multiple years may not be as large a financial strain on household budgets. This is important in a campaign of this magnitude, which is why it includes a five-year pledge period.

ARE CASH PLEDGES THE ONLY KIND OF GIFT?

There are many options when it comes to supporting the campaign and we invite you to select your preference. Those include donor-advised funds, securities, qualified charitable distributions from an IRA, crypto, and planned gifts are welcomed. Please contact Donor Services at 517-253-8792 to discuss further.

HOW CAN I FULFILL A GIFT OR PLEDGE TO THE CAMPAIGN?

There are several ways to make a gift or make payments on your campaign pledge, including:

- Setting up a pre-authorized gift (*automatic withdrawal*) from a bank account.
- Setting up a recurring credit card payment.
- Paying by check through the mail.
- Making a stock or securities transfer.

CAN I MAKE MY GIFT ONLINE?

Yes! Please visit:

www.stewardshipforsaintsandscholars.com.

You can make your pledge and set up recurring payments online.

WILL WE RECEIVE PLEDGE REMINDERS DURING THE FIVE-YEAR PLEDGE PERIOD OF THE CAMPAIGN?

Yes, regular giving updates and reminders will be sent through The Catholic Foundation.

DOES A CAMPAIGN GIFT RESULT IN TAX BENEFITS?

There are potential tax advantages to charitable gifts. Because tax laws change and everyone's situation is unique, please consult your attorney or financial adviser for answers to specific questions.

