



**St. Thomas the Apostle Parish  
Final Case Statement**

Since July 1835, Catholics in the Ann Arbor area have gathered to celebrate the Eucharist. At first, Fr. Patrick O’Kelly celebrated the Eucharist in people’s homes. Then, on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1845, on the same day that the first commencement exercises were being held at the newly founded University of Michigan, St Thomas the Apostle Parish was officially consecrated and dedicated to God. This parish has been a beacon of our Catholic faith and has served as the mother parish of all the other Catholic Parishes in Ann Arbor. Through the efforts of its many pastors and its faith-filled parishioners, our parish has continued to thrive and grow.

Today our parish has nearly 1800 families. Our school, which was founded in 1868, currently serves over 184 children in grades pre-K through 8. Our parish has many ministry programs, vibrant liturgies and superb educational programs for people of all ages.

Many of our parish facilities such as our Church building are over 100 years old. And while they have been well maintained over the years, there is a present need to repair and restore some of our facilities. Also, there is a hope to beautify the interior of the Church that recalls some of its original interior artwork. In addition, the parish leadership wishes to address the future of our parish and school by creating a parish endowment to provide support for ongoing ministry, our school, and future maintenance. The following is a list of the specific projects and approximate costs:

- Replacement of the School & Parish Roof: \$550,000
- Remaining Parking Lot Repairs: \$130,000
- Tuck Pointing the Church: \$130,000
- Stained Glass Window Repair: \$100,000
- Replace Rectory & St. Catherine House Roof  
And Repair of Porch & Interior \$250,000
- Parish Endowment \$400,000
- Church Beautification \$330,000 (or less)

**The total cost of all parish/school projects: \$1,890,000**

As we look to the future as a parish, so also is the Diocese of Lansing. Our larger faith family has embarked on its first ever-diocesan wide capital campaign called *Witness to Hope*. *Witness to Hope* seeks to raise \$65 million to support the many ministries of our the larger Church, including support for our seminarians and retired clergy, youth and young adults, Catholic education, evangelization and funds for social ministry. Each parish of the diocese will participate in this campaign, but because of the significance of the project here at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church we are planning to conduct an expanded campaign to support our major facilities expansion along with the case for the wider Church.

### **Our Participation**

It is our plan to conduct a Combined Campaign to support our own parish needs and those of the wider Church. Under this plan our parish would seek to raise \$3,000,000. Of this amount, \$1,890,000 would remain in our parish to fund our projects and the balance would support the wider Church efforts outlined in the *Witness to Hope* Case statement. The Diocese will pay for most costs of the campaign: printing; postage, pledge redemption, and other related campaign costs. Our parish will pay a significantly reduced fee for additional professional service from *Greater Mission*, who will be conducting the campaign. There will be no solicitation for the DSA in 2017.

Our parish leadership believes that by conducting a Combined Campaign we will not only be able to meet our own important needs, but we will, as part of the Universal Church play an important role in fostering a better and stronger future for the Catholic faith in South Central Michigan.

*“We might not immediately associate fixing a roof or parking lot with hope. Yet, in fixing them, we are saying loudly that corrosion and decay do not have the last say! We believe that in Jesus Christ, decay has met its end. Jesus is the great Witness to Hope. For the next 3-5 years, St. Thomas and other parishes are going to partner with our Diocese in a large campaign to provide a future full of hope for those in need in Flint and other places, for our youth, our senior priests, for those who have yet to hear the Gospel, and yes – even for us at St. Thomas in the practical needs we have. The Witness to Hope campaign gives us all an opportunity to join in personally through prayer and sacrifice in Christ's Work of restoring humanity to its full stature in God.”*

– Fr. Bill Ashbaugh