

Frequently Asked Questions

Capital Campaign 2016



How recent is Emmaus' building experience?

Within the first four months of Fr. Samuel's service at Emmaus (2007), a building request was put forth. When Fr. Samuel became the pastor for Emmaus, the annual Sunday collection at Emmaus was about \$1million. Now the collection is well over \$2million. Because of our parishioners' generosity and Fr. Samuel's leadership, the Parish Life Center was dedicated in 2011.

How were the parish needs assessed to determine that a new building was needed?

A parish-wide survey was conducted in 2014 which included paper, online and group meetings. Staff also participated. Our Pastoral Council coordinated the survey and results. A Building Plan was developed from the survey that includes three phases of building. The *Grounded in Faith, Growing to Serve* capital campaign is for the first phase of that Building Plan.

How big is Emmaus?

Emmaus Catholic Parish has grown tremendously: 950 families in 2004, 1650 families in 2011, over 2500 families now. Having the Parish Life Center is a big reason why that growth happened. We were able to expand our faith formation programs rapidly because of the wonderful classrooms in the PLC.

What is included in Phase 1 of the building plan?

Phase I includes a new building on the Emmaus campus where the two portable buildings are located. Also included is a gathering space on the Queen of Angels campus. A result of the new building at Emmaus is a very simple re-purposing of the current staff office building to include conference and meeting rooms. Our current expectation comprises \$2.5M to build a three-story Pastoral Center on the Emmaus Campus and \$150K for a reception hall at Queen of Angels Chapel. These will be done at the same time. Also included in the Phase 1 campaign is money to pay down on the debt for the PLC and ensure funds for future building maintenance.

Who benefits from the new building on the Emmaus campus?

We have seen again and again that our personal connection to our parish and faith is nurtured within small groups, most often within the ministry for which we volunteer or the prayer group we have joined. For

example, Emmaus is hosting our 29th Christ Renews Our Parish retreats this Fall 2016! After each retreat, the small group meets almost weekly for a year.

Small group space is very needed at both Emmaus and Queen of Angels.

Adults, primarily, benefit from Phase 1 building. When the Parish Life Center was built in 2011, beautiful spaces were created for receptions and also for our youth faith formation, including classrooms, stages, lounges, a playground, music rooms & media-enhanced spaces. We actively use the PLC for faith formation and preschool, nurturing 1000 youth each week. We have run out of space now to support our growing adult community and their needs for faith formation, counseling, reflection and other services. Our room scheduling is simply overbooked. We cannot readily grow our parish's spiritual, social and service offerings beyond what we have now because of space.

Staff will also benefit from a better office space, which serves all of Emmaus in the long term. Currently, staff offices are split between three buildings. The goal is that the new building brings all of the staff together in one office space, which enhances staff relations, and brings efficiencies and productivity.

Who benefits from the new building at Queen of Angels?

With the extended property at Queen of Angels, a true parish hall can be created. All will benefit from this facility. Receptions can be held at Queen of Angels, retreats for youth and adults, and there would be meeting space outside of the Church.

Why are we doing this Capital Campaign now?

There are two big reasons for this October 2016 kick-off of a three year capital campaign. First, the Bishop's Office told us to begin as soon as possible because of a moratorium on capital campaigns for three years beginning in Jan 2017. Since the Diocese itself will be entering into a capital campaign, we have to start ours now. Second, the use of the portables expires in 2021. The City of Lakeway gave us a final five year extension that cannot be extend beyond Spring of 2021.

Who is running this capital campaign?

The Diocese encourages parishes to hire campaign firms to ensure success. Because of the experience on our staff and because of the previous generosity of our parishioners (95% of the commitments were fulfilled for the PLC campaign in 2010 – best in the Diocese!), we are running this campaign completely in-house. This is a savings to the parish of approximately \$80K.

Who designed the campaign slogan?

The slogan and logo were designed in-house by the parish Administrative staff. *Grounded in Faith* recognizes who we are now. Our incredibly diverse community shares this amazing Catholic faith. Our faith is mutual to everyone and brings us together. *Growing to Serve* signifies how we will reach our potential: through service. We are a rapidly growing community: the last three Welcome & Registration events have brought Emmaus almost another 100 families. These are families of all ages, young and old, single, retired, etc. To grow in numbers means complimentary growth in services and space.

What debt does Emmaus have now?

We have a thirty year mortgage on the church itself that is due to be paid off in 2030. There is approximately \$4Million left on this note. Our current plan is to simply pay each month until 2030. The debt on the PLC is currently \$1.2Million. Our goal in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the building plan is to pay off this note ahead of schedule.

What is in Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the building plan? Where is the money coming from for these?

Phase 2 includes a complete renovation of the current staff offices, i.e., that house at the top of the hill. This home is 50 years old and has never been remodeled beyond the conversion of living space to office space. Windows, plumbing, electrical are all original. It is a beautiful area of our Emmaus campus and currently is not used to its fullest potential. This beautiful space needs to be converted into something more spiritual and accessible for our parish community.

Phase 3 is for renovations in the Emmaus church itself. Beyond repairs, we hope to add confessionals and a day chapel. We are the only church in the Diocese of Austin to not have a proper confessional. A day chapel would house our daily Mass to provide more intimacy (and use less air-conditioning!) for the small group of people that come to daily Mass. It will also be used for small weddings and funerals.

The time frame for Phase 2 and 3 is ten or more years. There will probably need to be another future campaign to pay for these improvements. More is not known at this time.

How much money needs to be collected before building?

By Diocesan regulations, we cannot break ground at Emmaus or Queen of Angels until fifty percent of the building pledges have been received, i.e., cash on hand. With 50% received, Emmaus can apply for a bridge loan to begin and complete the building. The sooner we can reach that 50% goal the sooner we break ground. As with our regular Sunday offertory collection, the Diocese does take a percentage (cathedraticum) of capital campaign giving. However, any campaign giving in the first twelve months is not assessed by the Diocese. Diocesan assessment begins in the 13th month of a capital campaign. This is another way Emmaus benefits from collecting campaign pledges sooner than the three year deadline.

Can we combine our regular offertory and the capital campaign?

Ultimately it is your money and every gift counts. We do ask that your regular Sunday giving not change with the extension to capital campaign giving. Sunday giving is what runs our parish now and how we designed our budget. We kindly request that capital campaign contributions be special gifts to our parish community, gifts that result from your education on the purpose of this campaign and then prayerful reflection on your call to be a good steward of your gifts from our Heavenly Father.

Capital Campaign giving can be done in all the same ways as with the regular Sunday offertory. Campaign gifts do need to be clearly marked as they are put into the parish books differently and reported to the Diocese differently.

Do you want me to make a pledge to the capital campaign?

Yes! A pledge allows us to plan when building can happen. *Grounded in Faith, Growing to Serve* is a maximum three year commitment. How you wish to give within that time frame is up to you.

How often do I pledge and how often do I pay?

There is just one pledge at the beginning of the campaign. We ask that pledges start in November of this year. How often you wish to pay on your pledge is up to you. We hope to make this easy for you with the following payment options: online; with the Smartphone app; through automatic withdraw (savings, checking or credit card); stocks; IRA rollovers; cash and/or check. Payments once a month, once a week or even all at once are fine! Again, the sooner we have half of the building money in the bank, the sooner we start to build.

When will building at Emmaus and Queen of Angels start?

A building start date in not know at this time. Enough funds must be in the bank before an architect or contractor can be engaged. The earliest we can start (and this is a guess) is one year from now. With Fr. Samuel's retirement in three years, we really would like to have the building done before then.

What about parking?

We recognize there are parking issues at Emmaus. We are currently working to clearly identify our needs, and possible improvements so we can build a plan to address parking, now and in the future.

Can we make a donation for a specific part of the building plan?

We are not setup for donations to specific aspects of the physical building.

When should I say the campaign prayer?

We will be saying the campaign prayer as a parish community during Masses through-out the three year time. Your additional prayers outside of Mass will magnify our parish request to God. You are encouraged to find a time or place in your home to recite the prayer, by yourself or with the family. Please also use this prayer during the discernment of your participation in *Grounded in Faith, Growing to Serve*.