

ASCENSION

FALL 2023



BUILT & DEDICATED

See story inside on how St. Anne & St. Jude in Sumter combined and revitalized their church.



**CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

The **Catholic Community Foundation of South Carolina** (CCFSC) is a 501(C)(3) organization responsible for overseeing the investment and distribution of the funds raised for endowments and other long-term purposes to fulfill the needs of Catholic parishes, schools, missions, and ministries.

The clergy and lay people who comprise the Board of Directors will be involved with future diocesan efforts beyond the Bicentennial Campaign.

BISHOP'S MESSAGE



Photo/Graybird Media

MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

What a joyous first year it has been for me as your bishop! The warm welcome and southern hospitality you have given has inspired me, and I offer my sincere thanks as we continue this journey of evangelization and growth together in this beautiful state of South Carolina.

I am encouraged by the widespread support that has been shown to the Bicentennial Campaign. Though this effort has been underway for many years, I view it as a bridge between the previous era of our diocese and the present.

Launched by my predecessor in 2018, the redemption period for the Bicentennial Campaign should conclude in 2025. I believe that the original goal of the campaign will come to fruition. The parishes, schools and ministries of our diocese will be stronger than ever, promising a visible and present Catholic Church to a world in desperate need of hope.

If you are still paying your pledge to the Bicentennial Campaign, thank you for your continued commitment. If you made a pledge and decided to pause payments for any reason, please prayerfully consider what you can share with this effort in its remaining years.

I pray that you can see in this newsletter the difference this campaign has made in your parish, and that you are reminded of Christ's work being carried out in our state because of your generosity.

In Christ's love,

Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS
Bishop of Charleston

GIFT IMPACTS

Do you know what your generosity has accomplished so far in 2023?

LIVING THE GOSPEL THROUGH SOCIAL OUTREACH

- **\$117,730** — Funding for Clean of Heart, the laundry and shower service administered by Catholic Charities of South Carolina to serve the homeless populations within Columbia and Conway. Additional funding for Our Lady's Pantry, providing healthy foods and behavioral economics education to thousands throughout the state.
- **\$82,158** — Annual grant to the Social Ministries Endowment, which helps statewide Catholic efforts to treat addiction, care for the elderly, and treat mental illnesses. Additionally, these funds bolster the Restorative Justice program, which aims to lower recidivism for those who were formerly incarcerated.
- **\$78,602** — Annual grant to St. Clare's Home in Greenville County to provide additional care and resources to unwed, pregnant mothers who choose life over abortion.



Photo/St. Clare's Home



Photo/Scott Webster

FORMING CATHOLICS TO BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL

- **\$79,972** — Funding for the Facilities Endowment, which grants parishes and schools the ability to sustain technology and infrastructure updates, as well as safety and security improvements. The existing Emergency Assistance Fund is also supplemented so that parishes and schools may preemptively address critical maintenance issues throughout their facilities.
- **\$72,976** — Boosting critical Formation Ministries such as the Diocesan Missionary Team (DMT), which works to evangelize young people by offering them an opportunity to hear about the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ through retreats and parish events. Additional funding is directed to ethnic ministry groups and catechetical approaches to those with special needs.
- **\$40,015** — Support for the Welcome Grants Program, aimed at providing matching funds to discount tuition for transfer students to our Catholic elementary, middle, and high schools.
- **\$22,185** — Additional funding for the Seminarian Endowment, which covers the education of South Carolina Seminarians and allows them to focus on their studies and discernment without concern over the financial costs.
- **\$18,356** — Funding for the training of a spiritual director who will be involved with Diaconate and Lay Person Education, ensuring the Church's commitment to providing adequate support to our deacons and the lay persons who are discerning the religious life.
- **\$13,006** — Supporting the initiatives of the Hispanic Ministry, permitting increased programs and additional training for our pastors and clergy to better serve the growing Hispanic population statewide, helping them become integrated with our communities in Christ.



Photos/Greybird Media

PARISH HIGHLIGHT

ST. ANNE & ST. JUDE CHURCH - SUMTER

St. Anne & St. Jude Church in Sumter originally participated in the **Bicentennial Campaign** in early 2019 with the goal of building a new worship space. The former, individual St. Anne and St. Jude parish buildings were in disrepair and neither was large enough to accommodate the full, now combined congregation. This task meant they were going to need to raise significantly more than the original goal of \$650,000.

The parish set out on a combined campaign with plans to raise \$1.8 million. They received over \$2.3 million in pledges and collected over \$1,798,000! Because St. Anne & St. Jude Church raised and collected enough of the necessary funds so quickly, the new church was built and formally dedicated by Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS, on June 2, 2023.

Father Giovannie Nunez, CRM, has been the pastor of St. Anne and St. Jude since 2017.

"It is a moment that has been long awaited, envisioned over 20 years ago, and now finally realized," the priest said. "We stand here as witnesses to the fulfillment of a dream, bringing together the collective efforts of so many dedicated individuals."

Congratulations to the St. Anne & St. Jude parish community on their tremendous success and their beautiful new church.



YOUR PLEDGE *matters*

If you made a pledge to the **Bicentennial Campaign** but had to pause on fulfilling it for any reason, please remember that your continued support in *any capacity* will benefit your parish. It also benefits the ministries and programs that are working to keep Christ's love "close to the brokenhearted" (Ps 34:19).

To check on the status of your pledge, please contact **bicentennial@charlestdiocese.org** with your full name and the name of the parish to which you made your pledge. Our team will work with you if you need to adjust your payment amount, frequency of payments or remaining balance.

If you are unable to fulfill your pledge but still wish to leave a one-time gift in support of the **Bicentennial Campaign**, please donate online: **charlestdiocese.org/online-donations**



Campaign Overview

As of August 1, 2023

Pledged: \$72,099,951

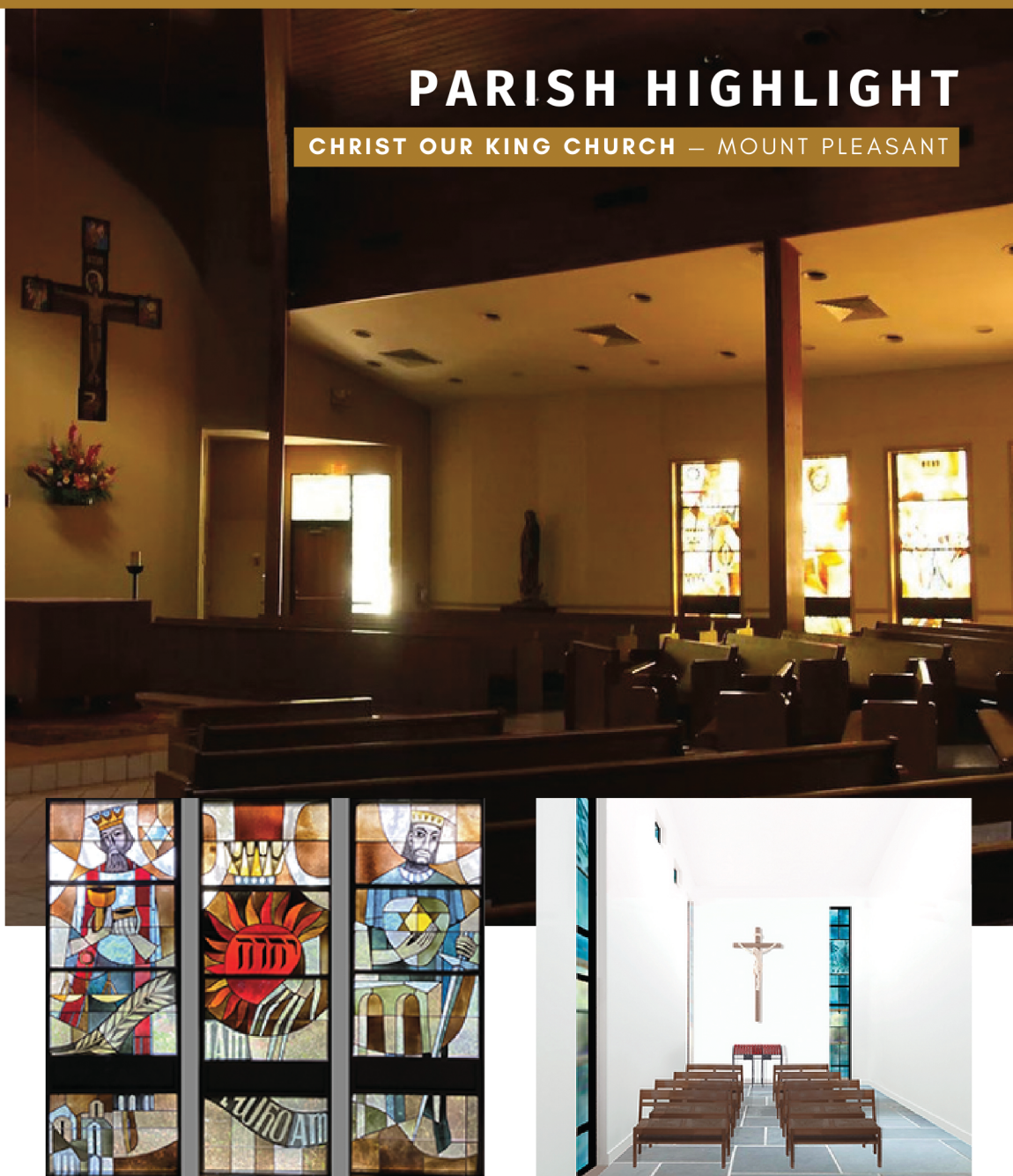
Collected: \$52,294,198

Donors: 16,361

Lay Volunteers: 420

PARISH HIGHLIGHT

CHRIST OUR KING CHURCH — MOUNT PLEASANT



Photos/Christ Our King Church

Christ Our King Church originally participated in the **Bicentennial Campaign** in late 2019 with the goal of conducting a major renovation project to its sanctuary. The parish far surpassed its original target and saw a wonderful response from its parishioners to the campaign.

However, construction and material costs have risen since 2020, which meant the original estimate of the project was no longer applicable. The renovation had to be put on hold.

Determined to finally conduct the needed work, Christ Our King revamped its **Bicentennial Campaign** in spring 2023 with the goal of raising an additional \$1.2 million to bridge the cost gap. Once again, the parish was able to surpass its new target by reaching out to its faithful and generous community and encouraging continued and prayerful support.

The parish raised an additional \$1.4 million in pledge extensions and new gifts to the campaign and aims to finally renovate its sanctuary in the coming months.

Congratulations to the Christ Our King community on their tremendous success!



OVER \$50M COLLECTED

*For now and our
Church's future*

In June 2023, the **Bicentennial Campaign** officially surpassed \$50 million in pledge payments collected. With a majority of these funds being returned to the parishes to address their critical needs! We are beginning to see the lasting impact this campaign is having on a vibrant and diverse Catholic Church across South Carolina.

Due to the generosity of people like you, our Church and parishes have been able to embark on meaningful projects, from infrastructure improvements to program expansion and offering new opportunities for education in our renowned schools. Among the long-term initiatives being funded by the **Bicentennial Campaign** are "Welcome Grants" to boost tuition assistance for children, facility maintenance for our parishes, giving comfort and assistance to pregnant mothers who choose life at St. Clare's Home and its outreach, and supporting our seminarians so that they can focus on their studies and discernment.

The Catholic Church must remain strong in a world that is growing more secular, and your support to the **Bicentennial Campaign** is ensuring all aspects of the Church within the borders of the Palmetto State can continue to be present in the lives of those who need it most.

ASCENSION

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WANT TO KNOW HOW YOUR PARISH IS DOING WITH ITS CAMPAIGN?

All parish progress reports are available on our website, along with a list of where grants have gone and ways to build your legacy! Visit us at:

CATHOLICFOUNDATIONS.C.ORG

PARISH	RAISED-TO-DATE	PAYMENTS RECEIVED	PLEDGE FULFILLMENT RATE
St. Paul the Apostle, Spartanburg	\$1,796,570	\$1,307,875	73%
St. Peter, Beaufort	\$3,027,915	\$2,235,871	74%
St. Peter, Cheraw	\$75,552	\$45,211	60%
St. Philip Benizi, Moncks Corner	\$215,165	\$125,172	58%
St. Philip Mark, Fort Mill	\$890,000	\$519,547	58%
St. Philip the Apostle, Lake City	\$40,786	\$30,781	75%
St. Theresa Mission, Springfield	\$115,400	\$80,544	71%
St. Theresa the Little Flower, Summerville	\$269,625	\$168,854	63%
St. Theresa, Winnsboro	\$40,045	\$36,595	91%
St. Thomas More Center, Columbia	\$400,675	\$397,525	99%
St. Thomas the Apostle, North Charleston	\$231,446	\$145,078	63%
St. William, Ward	\$11,555	\$7,275	64%
Stella Maria, Sullivan Island	\$1,454,625	\$1,147,15	79%
Srs. Frederick & Stephen Mission, Edisto Island	\$55,000	\$19,835	57%
Transfiguration, Blythewood	\$1,085,565	\$1,030,435	95%



Photo /Kylee Heap