

LOOKING BACK WITH GRATITUDE MOVING FORWARD WITH PURPOSE

A capital campaign to renew St. Mary's campus for generations to come.



Frequently Asked Questions

Question #1 **Why was the building project necessary?**

The original school building at St. Mary's, constructed in 1910, remained in use until the end of the 2021–22 school year. Over time, the structure had begun to show significant signs of age and deterioration, ultimately failing to meet the annual safety inspection requirements. Faced with a difficult decision, the community had a clear choice: either discontinue the educational program at St. Mary's School or move forward with the construction of a new facility.

Question #2 **Why did we proceed with the project without having all the funds raised?**

With the recommendation of the school's Educational Advisory Council (EAC), Bishop DeGrood, Fr. Shane D. Stevens, and the Parish Finance Council made the determination to move forward with the construction project after exceeding the Diocesan requirement of securing 50% of financial commitments prior to commencement. The closure of the original building—determined during the 2021–2022 school year—further underscored the urgency of proceeding. During the construction phase, unforeseen expenses were identified, and historic inflation significantly contributed to the current financial shortfall.

Question #3 **What is the goal and timeline of the second capital campaign?**

The goal of the second capital campaign is to raise \$6.25 million by December 2030 to fully repay the debt incurred (and loan interest) from the construction of the new school building and the renovation of the 1957 wing. This five-year timeframe allows for planned giving opportunities and significantly reduces the amount of interest paid on the loan. Paying off the loan within five years, rather than over the full term, would result in an estimated savings of nearly \$1.9 million in interest.

Question #4 **How did you come up with the campaign request amounts?**

To reach our goal of raising \$6.25 million, we humbly and gratefully ask each family to prayerfully consider making a pledge that is both proportionate and sacrificial. This campaign is a vital investment in the future of our school and parish community—one that will bless generations to come, just as we have been blessed by the generosity of those who came before us.

For the 2025 ***Moving Forward with Purpose campaign***, we are inviting families to consider a gift equal to 80% of their original 2022 contribution. If all 412 original donors are able to commit at this level, we will reach our goal. We also understand that circumstances vary, and if some families are moved to give above the 80% level, their generosity will help offset the gap for those who may not be in a position to give as much at this time.

Above all, we are deeply grateful for every gift—of any size—and for the continued faith, support, and commitment of our St. Mary's community.

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Question #5 **Why do we ask for pledges?**

The campaign emphasizes pledging because it allows donors to consider larger commitments than they might be able to make through a one-time gift. Past experience has shown that donors who pledge often give four to five times more than those who contribute a single gift, an important factor in a campaign of this magnitude.

To ensure every gift is accurately recorded and acknowledged, we ask donors to complete a Donor Agreement Form. While these pledges are not legally binding, they are made in good faith and reflect a donor's commitment to support the campaign over a schedule and method of their choosing.

If you have questions about the types of gifts and payment options accepted by the **Moving Forward with Purpose campaign** for St. Mary's School, please contact Jeff Trumbauer at 605.428.3990 or email coo@queenofpeacesd.org.

Question #6 **Are gifts to the campaign tax deductible?**

Yes, gifts to the campaign are tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. However, the application of tax laws can vary based on individual financial circumstances. Donors with specific questions about the deductibility of their contributions are encouraged to consult their attorney or tax advisor.

Question #7 **Who will be asked to participate in the campaign?**

Everyone! In the initial 2022 capital campaign, parishioners of St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's School families, friends, alumni and Dell Rapids community members were asked to support this important initiative for our beloved school. In the 2025 Moving Forward with Purpose campaign we are re-approaching those whose support was requested in 2022. Additionally, new donors will be identified for support of this endeavor.

Question #8 **Will there be additional capital campaigns in the future?**

Plans for future campaigns are currently being considered, as additional needs remain on the campus of St. Mary's. The school also seeks to be prepared for potential enrollment growth. The feasibility of any future campaigns will depend on the response to—and success of—the **Moving Forward with Purpose campaign**.

Any decision to launch additional capital efforts will be made only with the clear support and guidance of our stakeholders, including parishioners, school families, leadership councils, and donors. We remain committed to open communication and shared discernment, ensuring that any future initiatives reflect the true priorities and collective will of our community.

Contact Jeff Trumbauer in the pastorate office for more details or with any questions.

PH: 605.428.3990 | Email: coo@queenofpeacesd.org