



HOLY CROSS
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

September 26, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

In recent weeks, you may have heard about a planning study Holy Cross will start this week. The study will provide our leadership valuable feedback about projects proposed for our faith community and about the possibility of a major fundraising effort. We've hired the Steier Group, a Catholic fundraising firm, to conduct the study.

Here are details:

Q. What is a planning study?

A. The study gauges support for the proposed projects and for a potential major fundraising effort called a capital campaign. The study, which lasts about five weeks, also will help identify possible volunteer leaders and set a financial goal should the parish choose to move forward with a campaign.

Q. How will the study determine whether there is support?

A. The study involves surveying the entire Holy Cross community. The Steier Group will administer the study and survey. The firm will compile your feedback and present it to our parish leadership. We will then make an informed decision about the projects and a potential campaign. Hiring an experienced, professional development firm like the Steier Group ensures an effective and successful planning study.

Q. Why should we conduct a planning study?

A. Many churches and schools use planning studies when considering a fundraising campaign. It is a wise first step. That's because the study provides valuable information on how everyone feels about the proposed projects and a potential capital campaign.

Q. What is a capital campaign?

A. A capital campaign is a fundraising effort for big projects and needs, such as major renovations, new buildings and eliminating debt. Capital campaigns fund specific projects and needs above and beyond annual support. They are not for regular, ongoing costs, such as salaries and utility bills.

Q. What do you expect of our faith community during the planning study?

A. This week everyone will receive a letter in the mail, along with a fact sheet about the projects and details on how you can provide feedback. We will be relying on your involvement in the planning study and urge you to share your opinions on the projects. The more feedback we receive, the better decision we can make on the projects and a potential fundraising effort.

If you have questions, you are welcome to contact me at any time.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Mark Bachmeier'.

Fr. Mark Bachmeier
Pastor

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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HOLY CROSS
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

September 30, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

God is constantly calling us to build his Kingdom on earth. At Holy Cross Church and School, we gather as a faithful community to worship as Christ teaches, to enjoy fellowship and service through multiple ministries and programs, and to educate children in the light of Christ. Our foundation was established more than 120 years ago, and today we continue to nurture our faith here in the North Portland community.

In a spirit of gratitude for our rich history, we want to ensure that our church and school are poised to meet the needs of our dynamic, growing community for continued ministry in the decades ahead. Holy Cross' parish and school leaders have been hard at work planning for the future. Primary among our future plans is to have an accessible facility that can welcome and accommodate our flourishing community.

Because our current gathering spaces have stairs, parishioners with mobility issues cannot access the school basement. Additionally, our largest spaces are needed by the school for activities, further compounding scheduling and room size issues. In order to truly invite everyone – and have larger spaces to gather – we must boldly move forward with plans for expanded social spaces to encourage formation, fellowship, and engagement.

Our proposal is to create a new Parish Center on the northwest corner of our property. This much-needed structure will modernize our campus and allow us to welcome increased numbers for faith-sharing and fellowship activities for generations to come. Further, by integrating the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, it will provide an opportunity to continue serving our neighbors in need and demonstrate our commitment to the larger community.

We have retained the services of the Steier Group, a Catholic development consulting firm, to conduct a comprehensive planning study. This study will allow us to gather input from a variety of stakeholders regarding our proposed plans. It will also determine the level of financial support to move forward with a major fundraising effort and identify campaign leaders and volunteers.

Please review the Fact Sheet included on this webpage. Once you have read about our proposed plan for the future, please share your thoughts by completing the online survey no later than **October 26, 2022**.

I am hopeful that you will agree to share your time and thoughts with us. Your participation is crucial as we pray and plan for the continued success of Holy Cross Church and School.

Gratefully,

Fr. Mark Bachmeier
Pastor

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