



Living Our Call. Living Our Faith.

Living Our Mission Campaign Newsletter
Spring 2015

“It was not you who chose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain...” John 15:16



Message from the Bishop

As Catholic Christians, we have a shared responsibility. This responsibility calls on us to look beyond each of our parishes to the larger ministries of our Church. These include strengthening our parishes and schools, rekindling commitment in our younger generations, educating our future priests, training our lay leaders, and taking care of our retired priests. That is why we are conducting the *Living Our Mission* campaign - to position our whole Church and all of our parishes for the future.

Since the beginning of 2014 when we launched this historic campaign, many of our Catholic faithful have come forward with generous pledges and gifts to build our future Church. In this spirit, I am pleased to share with you the new *Living Our Mission* newsletter. This newsletter will be sent to you throughout the year. By sending this newsletter, we want you to know how much we appreciate the commitment you have made and that the generosity you have shown us is growing the ministries of our Church.

As we continue with this campaign over the next year, we ask for your continued prayers that our parishes and our Diocese will be successful.

Thank you again for your partnership and I wish all of God's blessings to you.

+ Francis X. Di Lorenzo



Campaign Progress

Living Our Mission Campaign Tops \$40 Million Mark

It is with great joy that we announce the Living Our Mission campaign has exceeded the \$40 million mark in gifts and pledges bringing us to 62% of the total goal of \$65 Million. The campaign, which is currently in the 2nd wave of parishes, has received 9,198 gifts to date from 75 participating parishes. These parishes have begun to receive quarterly distribution checks from the money collected. So far \$5,715,163.63 has been sent back to parishes so that they can begin to fund their individual projects. Thank you to all of our pastors, parish staff, parish leadership, volunteers and donors who have helped to make this call to faith such a success!

www.livingourmission.org



For up to date information on the *Living Our Mission* campaign, individual parish information and progress reports, to make a donation and follow our news, please visit our website at www.livingourmission.org. Recent changes to the website now make it easier to see what is happening at the diocese and your parish.

“When we started this process, I wasn’t sure what to expect since it was so new, but I have to say that I have been amazed by the generosity of our people. In addition to raising funds for our local needs, this campaign has also offered us an unexpected opportunity to bring our parish community closer together.”

~Msgr. J. Kenneth Rush, Pastor of Holy Cross, Lynchburg, VA



Advancing Our Shared Mission:

The *Living Our Mission* campaign, in addition to helping our parishes and their needs, is raising essential funding for eleven diocesan ministries and programs. One of these is a Seminarian Education and Advanced Education Endowment. It is a true blessing that the Catholic Diocese of Richmond continues to see growth in the number of seminarians.



Seminarians Kyle O'Connor and Jamie Hickman off to Rome Sunday.

We currently have 23 seminarians in formation and we have fine young men in the application process. While seminarians of other dioceses may have to cover all or a portion of their education – and that can pose a great hindrance to discernment – with the generosity of our donors, our humble mission diocese is still able to fully fund the education expenses of all our seminarians. Congratulations to the three seminarians, Rev. Mr. Matthew Kiehl; Rev. Mr. Daniel Cogut; and Rev. Mr. Nicholas Mammi, who will be ordained on June 6th at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond!



“From supporting our seminarians with world-class theological educations and summer pastoral assignments to retreats fostering vocations among our youth and young adults, the Living

Our Mission campaign is essential for developing a new generation of dynamic and holy priests to serve our parishes now and into the future.”

~Fr. Michael Boehling, Vicar of Vocations

Inspirations:

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Hampton, Virginia



St. Joseph Parish in Hampton, along with its sister parish St. Mary Star of the Sea, has persevered through a major transition over the past several years: the closure of the military base Fort Monroe and the realignment of Langley Air Force base. Shortly after Msgr. Walter Barrett was installed as pastor three years ago, he formed a strategic planning committee that would lead the parish in building a prudent and faithful future.

The parish launched its *Living Our Mission* campaign in the fall of 2014, about two years into its five-year strategic planning process, seeing the



The St. Joseph high school youth group celebrating the amazing richness of our Catholic Christian faith at The Diocese of Richmond Youth Conference.

campaign as an opportunity to advance its strategic planning process. The parish designated part of its share of the campaign money for the development of a comprehensive infrastructure plan

so that it could hire an architect or engineer to assess how to better manage their building expenses. Most of its share from the campaign will go into a Capital Projects Fund that can be used for renovations or a future expansion, and a portion is designated for endowment.

Thanks to the strong leadership of Msgr. Barrett, the witness of lay leaders, and the generosity of many parishioners, the parish raised nearly \$700,000 toward its \$596,000 goal,



Knights of Columbus Rosary Crusade.

with one-third of funds raised up to its goal and two-thirds of funds raised over its goal coming back to the parish. Msgr. Barrett commented, “The parishioners of Saint Joseph in the Peninsula Cluster, like many parishioners in our diocese, were concerned that the parish itself would be the first beneficiary of the capital campaign. After much discussion and a number of parish gatherings, there grew a greater appreciation of the need to work in collaboration with our sister parishes in the diocese! This was not always easy, but the surprising generosity of so many parishioners amazed both pastor, staff, and the parishioners themselves as we witnessed the final results!”