



# Living Our Call. Living Our Faith.

Living Our Mission Campaign Newsletter

Summer 2016

“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



## Upcoming Webinars for Parishes

The *Living Our Mission* campaign provided an important opportunity to better understand the needs that exist in our parishes. To that end, the Office of Development has formulated a long-term plan for how they can serve and support parishes so as to build upon the foundation created through the campaign. As a part of this plan, the Office of Development will now operate as the Catholic Community Foundation, effectively serving as the development arm of the Diocese. The Catholic Community Foundation will house all of the endowments created through the *Living Our Mission* campaign as well as those created previously.

In order to best communicate our transition as well as our short-term and long-term plans, the Catholic Community Foundation will be hosting a series of webinars in August and September.

**August 30th - Legacy Giving, Endowment Building**  
10:30-11:30am

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3062280997401468418>

**September 1st - Legacy Giving, Endowment Building and Living Our Mission Campaign Continuation**  
10:30am-12:30pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2733855774673157634>

**September 14th - Annual Parish Stewardship and Offertory** 10:30-11:30am

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4839393054073514242>

**September 15th - Annual Parish Stewardship and Offertory** 10:30-11:30am

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2531666581441447682>



## Campaign Progress

### Living Our Mission Campaign Exceeds \$104 Million Raised!

Although the active phase of the *Living Our Mission* campaign ended in June, many new pledges continue to be received. The progress over the past few months has well-exceeded expectations with the campaign now surpassing \$104 million raised.

This milestone is marked by an eighth round of parish sharing checks that were recently sent. In this latest round of funding \$2,884,000 was returned to the parishes. In total, over the eight rounds beginning in September of 2014, nearly \$22 million has been returned for the local priorities of the parishes. Based on current pledges received, the Diocese projects over \$60 million ultimately being sent back to the parishes.

This success could not have been possible without the tireless support of our pastors, lay leaders and parishioners who came together and generously invested in the future of our Catholic Church.

[www.livingourmission.org](http://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](http://www.livingourmission.org)

*"The generous support of the parish for the Living Our Mission Capital Campaign enabled Incarnation in Charlottesville to complete necessary campus maintenance and reduce our parish debt."*

~Rev. Gregory Kandt, pastor, Incarnation, Charlottesville, VA



Landlocked in the well-developed West End of Richmond, Saint Bridget Catholic School dreamed of acquiring additional space to serve its student body for over 30 years. In 2015, doing so finally became possible when the Westhampton Baptist Church decided to sell their iconic campus.



Architect's Rendering

Principal, George Sadler worked with Pamela Wray (SBCS's Development Director), the Diocese of Richmond's Office of Development and Msgr. William Carr, pastor of St. Bridget Parish, to recruit a committee to help lead the campaign. In less than a year, the committee drove the development of the site plan and launched and ran *Ignite*, a campaign conducted through the *Living Our Mission* campaign, to raise at least \$2 million for the project. The figure of \$2 million was a portion of the initial \$5 million financing plan that was developed. The remaining funding came from Diocesan grants, Saint Bridget Parish, the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, historic tax credits and a mortgage.

Over the course of the campaign, many people came together to achieve this dream by generously pledging over \$2.7 million! Because of this success, construction on the new middle school campus is well underway. It will serve as a dedicated campus for Saint Bridget's middle school students, with the primary school students remaining at the improved York Road campus. In addition, the new campus will feature a performing arts center in the church's old sanctuary, an academic common area that fosters collaboration and a state-of-the-art science lab. The middle school facilities may be opened as early as January, 2017.

Watch the *Ignite* video created by St. Bridget's 8th Grade Technology Class  
<http://tinyurl.com/hgangru>



As the first Cathedral of the Diocese of Richmond, St. Peter's Catholic Church has been a permanent fixture in downtown Richmond for almost 200 years. The church, which was built in 1834, has been undergoing a major restoration of its interior for the past several months.

Money for the project comes largely from the Diocese's *Living Our Mission* campaign and from parish savings. "Our goal for *Living Our Mission* was \$177,000 and we went over \$265,000 in pledges and gifts. The restoration was the impetus to promote the campaign. The second thing was renovating our bathrooms to install showers for the poor and the homeless", said Father Gino Rossi, pastor.

The pews have been refinished and have been moved to St. John's Church in Highlands Springs (of which Father Rossi is also pastor) where they are stored in the religious education classrooms which are vacant for the summer months. The kneelers, two-thirds of which were broken, have been restored. The church's oak floors will be sanded and refinished. The marble on the altar is being cleaned and the outside walls of the church will be pressure-washed.

"We're restoring the murals behind the altar. One is a scene of the crucifixion of Christ and another is a mural of Jesus giving Peter the keys of the kingdom, said Father Rossi. The muralist is Joe Cornelius, a commercial artist from Flagstaff, Arizona. "I discovered his work through YouTube," Father Rossi says. "I contacted him and was able to see his work, which impressed me."

Ordained a priest in 2013, Father Rossi was asked about his vision for St. Peter's as he looks to the future. "I am a co-worker for the Bishop to bring about his vision for the Diocese," he said. Father Rossi will invite Bishop DiLorenzo to rededicate the church in the early fall.



"I am really excited that these renovations to our sanctuary will be inspiring to our sense of community," said Chris Thomas, chair of the parish finance council. Equally vital to our mission as a parish will be the improvements to our food service area that will enable us to expand our lunch and dinner programs for those in need."



To read the full article by Steve Neill, please visit  
<http://www.catholicvirginian.org/?p=2505>

Watch how Joe Cornelius aka 'Mural Joe' paints clouds on the ceiling of St. Peter by visiting  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AL9cATm9mXk>