








PLANNING STUDY RESULTS

Prior to the end of 2023, St. Francis Xavier embarked on a comprehensive campaign planning study to gather feedback from parishioners about a proposed campaign and determine the size and scope of the effort. Over 200 families participated in the study, and after gathering and analyzing data collected, representatives from the Steier Group reported their findings to the campaign committee, school board, stewardship group, pastoral council, finance council and Fr. Kelechi on December 20. The feedback they received indicated significant support for the proposed projects:

-  † 90% of respondents stated they are in favor of a capital campaign.
-  † 88% of respondents said they will make a gift or pledge to the campaign.

-  † The church and school projects both scored as high priorities.
-  † The Reker Hall projects and new multipurpose facility both scored as medium priorities.

-  † Over 50 parishioners volunteered their time to help make the campaign a success.



Based on these findings, St. Francis Xavier is moving forward with a capital campaign.

NEXT STEPS

Over the next several weeks, the campaign committee will work with the Steier Group to prepare for our capital campaign. This will include but is not limited to:

- † Finalizing the goals based on planning study feedback.
- † Developing communication materials for the campaign.
- † Recruiting and training volunteers for various campaign responsibilities.
- † Planning community information events.

The theme of our campaign is *Preserving Our Faith...Forging Our Future*. This theme demonstrates our commitment to care for our parish that was created by those who came before us, as well as making certain that St. Francis Xavier remains a vibrant church community for generations to come.

This is an exciting time for our parish as we seek to lay a strong foundation for a positive future. To be successful, we will rely on every family at St. Francis Xavier to provide support. In the coming weeks and months, we will share updates on our progress as well as calls for volunteers by email and in the bulletin. Please read the information carefully to keep yourself informed. In the meantime, please pray for the parish leaders and volunteers who will be working diligently to ensure a successful outcome.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is on the campaign committee?

Whom should I contact if I want to help?

Current members are Fr. Kelechi Uzuegbu, Deacon Mike Berendzen, Eric Bernskoetter, Josh Sandbothe, Linda Distler, Darren Heckman, Megan Prenger, Cindy Luebbering, Robin Bernskoetter and Wendy Sullivan.

We will need many more volunteers to help with various aspects of the capital campaign. If you would like to be involved, please contact our campaign director from the Steier Group, Joanna Gray, at jgray@steiergroup.com to discuss volunteer needs and opportunities.

When will the campaign start? How long will it last?

The campaign timeline is as follows:

January and February	Preparation and Lead Gifts Phase
February through late April	Parish Appeal Phase
Late April through early May	Follow-Up Phase

Who will be asked to give?

This campaign will provide everyone with an opportunity to participate in supporting our parish. Campaign materials will be sent soon, including a request of each family to make a meaningful gift with a suggested amount. Each family is asked to prayerfully consider what an appropriate sacrifice would be that provides support for the campaign and then complete their pledge card. For many, this will be a pledge made over a three-year period to suit their own budget and circumstances.

In addition, the Steier Group is compiling a list of businesses and foundations that donate to Catholic causes in the Midwest.

Will the capital campaign include fundraising for all the projects mentioned in the planning study?

The current plan is to manage the fundraising in phases. This will ensure that our most pressing needs will be addressed first. More information will be provided once these plans are finalized.

How does the capital campaign fit with the Energize Our Parish initiative?

Though these two efforts are being conducted independently of each other, they are mutually beneficial. Each seeks to increase participation and support of our parish. Throughout its history, St. Francis Xavier has been the heart of our Taos community. These two programs will ensure our parish remains strong and vital for generations to come.

