

Dear St. William Parishioners,

As Follow-up Chairperson of the Debt Retirement Campaign, I asked Fr. Michael if I could update everyone as to our current status, and make one last appeal to all of our parishioners who have not formally responded to this campaign.

As we stand now (March 3rd, 2007), we have received a total of **658** responses towards the debt retirement campaign. Out of those, **436** families have pledged **\$636,500** for next three years, with **\$ 97,650** collected to date. I want to personally thank all of you that have committed to this program and, in light of the current economic doom and gloom here in Michigan, I truly commend all of you for your generosity and sacrifice. I'm happy to add that we have recently made a **\$117,000** payment against the loan (45 k to interest and the rest applied to principle last month) and have lowered our principle to 1.499 million.

In addition to those that have committed to this venture, we are still receiving roughly **\$50,000/ year** in funds from those that have past history of contributing to the debt retirement but have not formally informed us of their intentions to continue their gifts for the three additional years of the current campaign. If you are one of those families, please let us know that you wish to continue your generosity to this campaign.

Assuming that all are still on board, we now have **\$786,500** in committed funds. This translates to reducing the debt by 1/3rd, 34 months from now (taking future interest payments into account). As you can see, we are making a significant dent in dropping our debt, but we will still be faced with roughly **1 million dollars** to go three years down the road, if we stop here. To be honest with you, I really do not want to face another campaign three years down the road, and I'm 100% sure that none of you welcome that prospect either. We are at a critical juncture right now, where your response can help the Parish avoid this grim cycle that we seemed lock into.

When I agreed to volunteer my services to this project, I was amazed to hear these statistics. We currently have just under 2300 families registered to the Parish (this is an accurate number), by which only 600-800 of these families regularly attend mass. The revelation that got me so enthused, was that if each regular attending family could sacrifice **an average of TWO-dollars a day** for the next three years, the debt would be fully retire with monies left over. Add to that, the prospect of getting one quarter of the

families that are not here every Sunday to do the same... I thought to myself, its very do-able!

Well, already halfway there, and the campaign going into its final stage, I thought it necessary that I make one last appeal to those who have yet to respond and encourage you to please do so in some manner; be it a three year commitment, or a one time gift. Bottom line is that any additional funds added to this campaign from this point, will be applied directly to the principle of our debt (the interest is already covered). Does an additional \$240 K, which will cut the debt in half three years from now, seem unreasonable at this juncture? I don't think so. All it would take is an average of \$2/day/family from just our remaining faithful attendees, and we can exceed this goal. And to keep it in prospective, if we could obtain an average of \$10/month from the remaining 1200 families who do not attend every Sunday, the debt could be completely abolished three years from now. It's important that you understand the following: **every penny directed to this campaign will be applied only to the debt.** There will be **NO NEW Capital Campaign(s) Initiated, unless it is expressed by a majority of the Parishioners that it is needed.** FYI, we can't build anything unless we have 100% of the funds in our bank account first (period), and as we currently stand right now, our savings account balance is almost non-existent.

In closing, if you are unable to make a financial commitment at this time, we still would appreciate your response. In addition, we welcome any comments and most especially, need your prayers. *It is important for you to know that we want to hear from you regardless of your situation.* Please honor this by filling out the form [see web link](#) below or obtain a copy from our display in the East or West tower entrances of the Church) and turn it in to the collection basket this week or next. Second, I ask you to reach deep into your heart and realize that *St William is our home* and it is up to us parishioners to take care of it. Here is your chance to truly make a difference. Knowing from my personal experience, I have found that the more I give from my heart, be it time, service, prayer or treasure, the more I seem to be rewarded with peace, a sense of fulfillment and contentment. It is may wish for all of you to experience this as well. God bless.

Dennis J. Goebel Sr.

Follow-up Chairperson of the Debt Retirement Campaign