



Threshold to Our Future

**A Campaign to Eliminate Our Debt
And Renew and Energize Our Parish Community**

**The Catholic Community of Saint Michael
Farmington, MN**



Introduction

“Always remember that only if one builds, as St. Paul says, on the one foundation which is Jesus Christ will one be able to construct something really great and lasting”

*-Pope John Paul II,
January 27, 1979*

When entering the city of Farmington from any direction, the steeple of the Church of Saint Michael is a welcoming and inspiring sign serving as a reminder of *who we are, where we are and where we are going.*

We came together twelve years ago in a spirit of generosity to raise funds for a new church home as our needs outgrew our former one. Parishioners responded generously in two successive campaigns that reduced our debt to a more manageable level. Now, we have reached a point where eliminating our debt could open the door to many new opportunities and in doing greater things in the area of parish services, ministries and facilities. Plus it will position us to attract strong future leadership, personnel and parishioners to our church.

Our Needs



As a result of the generous support of our parishioners, God has blessed us with a spacious and impressive place to worship, learn and serve. As we continue to strive to be good stewards of our buildings and grounds, we still face new challenges that we must plan for.

Our current debt stands at around \$1.8 million. While we have made significant progress in lowering our debt these past years, our monthly service payments to cover this obligation is still \$14,000. This amount consumes over a third of

our annual operating budget and hampers us as a parish in significant ways.

Ministry Needs. In the recent past, we have cut back programs and personnel, frozen and often reduced our departmental and overall operating budgets and eliminated or deferred expanding critical parish services and ministries in key areas that we regard as the four pillars of our parish community... *faith formation, fellowship and engagement, leadership and worship and music*. These are the very programs that help attract, nurture and retain parishioners, yet all are suffering in various ways because of our debt.

Staff Needs. We also rely heavily on dedicated volunteers or part-time workers to staff what should be paid positions in a parish of our size. Until recently, we did not even have a full time business administrator. We still have need of fulltime, paid staff to lead youth and adult faith formation, youth ministry and liturgy. We are however, forever mindful of what we can afford with our current budget.

Reserve for Capital Improvements. Additionally, we have only been able to set aside minimal sums for routine facility maintenance and repairs, including capital improvement projects which are more major in nature and are likely to occur with our twelve year old facility.

Debt Service The remaining building debt of \$1.8 million was due to reset with a balloon date of 2014. This expenditure places a significant financial burden on our faith community. In Fiscal 2012 we paid \$168,000 in principal & interest. Debt service remains the single largest item in our budget next to salary expenses. We have reached the long-awaited point where it is feasible to pay off our loan and become debt free.

Cost of Constructing Our Parish Facilities	\$ 5,900,000
Monies from:	
▪ Building Our Faith campaign	(1,200,000)
▪ Sale of land and our 1913 church facility	(1,000,000)
▪ Bridging Our Faith campaign	(600,000)
▪ Uniting In Faith campaign	(1,400,000)
▪ Other contributions/payments	(500,000)
Current Debt	\$ 1,800,000
Current Annual Monthly Principal and Interest Payments	\$ 168,000
Current Monthly Principal and Interest Payment	\$ 14,000

Faith Formation, Fellowship & Engagement, Leadership and Music and Worship. We need to find new and creative ways to engage and stay connected with all parishioners and newcomers, both young and old.

As we look to our future, we find ourselves on the threshold of a transition in leadership; Father Dennis will be leaving our parish in two years. Consequently, we believe that now is the time to retire our debt so that we can open the door to greater things and more opportunities in programs, services and ministries as well as continuing to take care of and improve our facilities. Having our parish on sound financial footing will also enable us to attract strong future leadership, personnel and parishioners to our parish.

Our Plans

With this in mind, our church leadership is proposing a thoughtful and prayerful plan calling for a final 5-year initiative to substantially reduce and hopefully retire our debt once and for all.

In so doing, we will realize substantial savings. Eliminating our debt will free up approximately \$14,000 a month which amounts to \$168,000 annually. Our parish leadership is committed to re-investing this savings into important programs, services and ministries, paid personnel to direct them, and reserve funds for routine, scheduled maintenance and anticipated major improvements to our facilities.

“Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.”

Romans 13:8

Investing in Ministry. In the area of ministry, our plan is to dramatically enhance and expand our L.I.F.E. (Lifelong Intergenerational Faith Experience) program for faith formation and find new and creative ways to engage all parishioners in living and growing in our Catholic faith. We also plan to enhance and expand our early childhood programming, develop stronger programs for youth ministry and enhance and expand our services and ministry for seniors. We will also continue advocating stewardship as a way of life and expand the shared ministry program that will seek ways to actively engage all parishioners and keep them involved in our parish community and life.

Investing in Staff. We also plan to invest in staff because in order to have quality programs, services, and ministries, we need to have qualified fulltime personnel to lead them. While we will always need volunteers, they cannot be expected to dedicate the same time and energy as full time staff, or they may not have the knowledge needed to fulfill the obligations of these positions. Plus today, most parish ministry positions require specialized screening, expertise and training. Other parishes similar in size to us typically staff these positions with paid personnel. Therefore, we plan to responsibly and eventually expand our church staff to include full-time directors for youth and adult faith formation, youth ministry, shared ministry and worship and liturgy. We believe that doing so will result in more active and engaging programs and parishioners.

Investing in our Facilities. Finally, we also plan to start budgeting more adequate sums annually for routine facility maintenance and repairs as well as set aside additional sums for larger capital improvement projects that are sure to arise as our facilities continue to age.

Our Campaign

To address our needs and plans, we are initiating an intensive fundraising effort entitled the *“Threshold to Our Future”* campaign. Our aim with this important effort is to increase our awareness of good stewardship and the blessings God has given us so that we can raise the funds needed to reduce or eliminate our debt and ultimately address the spiritual needs of our church family.

Goals
\$1,300,000
Minimum Goal
\$1,800,000
Challenge Goal

Our minimum goal is \$1,300,000, which will empower us to reduce our church debt by 70% and save \$125,880 annually. We are also setting a challenge goal of \$1,800,000 which, if met, will enable us to achieve our goal of being debt-free. This will result in our gaining the ability to redirect the \$168,000 annual savings into new and existing programs, services and ministries, key paid personnel and our facilities; all of which are needed for us to better do God’s will and works.

Levels of Support Needed to Succeed

In order to reach our financial objectives, we need both a substantial number of givers and a few, fairly substantial gifts as the following charts of gifts shows.

Minimum Goal

Size of Gift	#	Total
\$150,000 or More	1	\$150,000
\$75,000 - \$149,999	2	\$150,000
\$50,000 - \$74,999	3	\$150,000
\$25,000 - \$49,999	6	\$150,000
\$15,000 - \$24,999	10	\$150,000
\$7,500 - \$14,999	20	\$150,000
\$5,000 - \$7,499	30	\$150,000
Less Than \$5,000	453	\$250,000
TOTAL	525	1,300,000

Challenge Goal

Size of Gift	#	Total
\$200,000 or More	1	\$200,000
\$100,000 - \$199,999	2	\$200,000
\$50,000 – 99,999	4	\$200,000
\$25,000 - \$49,999	8	\$200,000
\$15,000 - \$24,999	12	\$180,000
\$7,500 - \$14,999	24	\$180,000
\$5000 - \$7,499	36	\$180,000
Less Than \$5,000	444	\$460,000
TOTAL	525	1,800,000

Your Gifts At Work

We need all members – from new members who may be making their first campaign gift, to longer-term members who may have committed and pledged before – to contribute sacrificially or to the best of their abilities to what we hope will be our best and last campaign. By freeing ourselves from the shackles of debt, we can grow and improve in ways that are more positive, progressive, productive and pleasing to God as well as the members of our church.

Here's what your gift at one of the following levels of giving can mean...

- A gift of \$200,000, or \$40,000 a year for the next 5 years, will save us \$33,204 annually or \$664,080 over the remaining 20-year life of our loan. This type of gift would enable us to **replace the Social Hall flooring**.
- A gift of \$100,000, or \$20,000 a year for the next 5 years, will save us \$24,780 annually or \$495,600 over the remaining 20-year life of our loan. We would be able to **replace the carpet in the Gathering Space**.
- A gift of \$50,000, or \$10,000 a year for the next 5 years, will save us \$20,568 annually or \$411,360 over the remaining 20-year life of our loan. We could **make the necessary repairs to our parking lot asphalt** with this level of giving.
- A gift of \$25,000, or \$5,000 a year for the next 5 years, will save us \$18,468 annually or \$369,360 over the remaining 20-year life of our loan. Such a gift would enable us to **expand to a full-time youth minister for the academic year** over the next 20 years.
- A gift of \$10,000, or \$2,000 a year for the next 5 years, will save us \$17,196 annually or \$343,920 over the remaining 20-year life of our loan. We would be able to **increase shared ministry programming** with this level of giving.
- And a gift of \$5,000, or \$1,000 a year for the next 5 years, will save us \$16,776 annually or \$335,520 over the remaining 20-year life of our loan. Such a gift would enable us to **purchase comprehensive curriculum for the LIFE program - from early childhood through adult formation** over the next 20 years.

In short, your most generous gift and all gifts is the key!



Gift Options

"He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

God loves a cheerful giver. God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance.

He will supply and multiply your resources.

You will be enriched.

You will glorify God by your generosity."

2 Corinthians 9:6-11, 13

We ask all members to consider sacrificial gifts toward this special campaign, above and beyond what they give in their regular offerings and other contributions. There are a variety of ways that gifts can be made.

Long-term subscriptions, or pledges payable over 5 years, are easier for most and essential to meeting our goal, since it would be impractical, if not impossible, to reach our objectives with one-time, out-of-pocket gifts. Gifts may be made in monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments at the donor's discretion. We request that you make a 10% initial investment toward your total pledge.

Non-cash gifts are an additional or alternative way you can support our cause. You may, for example, wish to consider gifts of securities such as stocks and bonds; gifts of real estate or even personal property such as artwork, automobiles, jewelry and antiques.

And finally, you can also support our efforts through deferred gifts. These are gifts that can be given or arranged for now, but will not be received until later, and include gifts through a person's will by bequest, gifts of life insurance policies or annuities, and gifts in trust.

We will inscribe the names of all donors or the names of those they are honoring with their gifts in a special donor book located in our gathering space.

Summary

Our Holy Father says this Year is a time to rediscover the *journey* of faith, "rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves" on the Scriptures and on the Eucharist, "rediscover the *joy* of believing and the *enthusiasm* for communicating the faith," rediscover God's *love* "day by day," and "rediscover and study the *content* of the faith." Let us also remember and rediscover the importance of our Church of Saint Michael in the shaping of the faith formation of all our members, and what it holds for the future of our parish community and our ability to do greater things.

Suggested Pledge Plans (Five-Year Pledges)

Gift Level	Total Gift	(10%) Initial Investment	Daily*	Weekly*	Payment Plans			
					(60) Monthly	(20) Quarterly	(10) Semi- Annually	(5) Annually
Pacesetter	\$2,000,000	\$200,000	\$986	\$6,923	\$30,000	\$90,000	\$180,000	\$360,000
	1,000,000	100,000	493	3,462	15,000	45,000	90,000	180,000
	750,000	\$75,000	370	2,596	11,250	33,750	67,500	135,000
	500,000	50,000	247	1,731	7,500	22,500	45,000	90,000
	250,000	25,000	123	865	3,750	11,250	22,500	45,000
	100,000	10,000	49	346	1,500	4,500	9,000	18,000
	75,000	7,500	37	260	1,125	3,375	6,750	13,500
	50,000	5,000	25	173	750	2,250	4,500	9,000
	40,000	4,000	20	138	600	1,800	3,600	7,200
	30,000	3,000	15	104	450	1,350	2,700	5,400
25,000	2,500	12	87	375	1,125	2,250	4,500	
Major	20,000	2,000	9.86	69	300	900	1,800	3,600
	15,000	1,500	7.40	52	225	675	1,350	2,700
	10,000	1,000	4.93	35	150	450	900	1,800
	5,000	500	2.47	17	75	225	450	900
Community	4,000	400	1.97	13.85	60	180	360	720
	3,000	300	1.50	10.40	45	135	270	540
	2,000	200	.99	6.9	30	90	180	360
	1,000	100	.50	3.50	15	45	90	180

* These figures are provided for illustration purposes only. To minimize costs, suggested payment plans include monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments.

*“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another
as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”*

1 Peter 4:10