



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

PLANNING STUDY RESULTS

I wish to extend my thanks to our community and those who participated in the recent planning study conducted for St. Patrick Catholic Church and St. Mary's Catholic School. We received a great response from our parish and alumni, feedback that is extremely beneficial as we look to the future of our church and school. After gathering and analyzing data from the study, representatives from the Steier Group reported their findings to members of the administrative team, Parish Council and Finance Committee on February 13, 2024. Below is a summary of their report.



STUDY PARTICIPANTS



72

Personal Interviews



168

Mail, Online and In-Pew Surveys



240

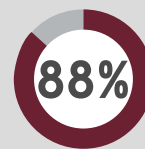
Total Participation

- 29% of parishioners (212 out of 726 total)
- 2% alumni/other (28 out of 1,552 total)

OVERALL COMMENTS

- "Both the church and the school feel like home. It's a family."
- "We have felt welcome here since day one."
- "All these projects are so necessary!"
- "I am concerned that we won't be able to raise this much money."
- "I am 100% behind the preservation project."
- "The new altar and mural would be nice, but it's not a 'need' at this time."
- "Moving the organ should be the last priority. We should not move the organ up to the loft; it's not practical for the people who would need to walk up there."
- "We've talked about the school HVAC forever!"

STATISTICAL FINDINGS



88% of respondents will make a personal gift to the campaign



27 respondents indicated they would serve as a campaign volunteer



27 respondents indicated that they have already left a gift to St. Patrick or St. Mary's in their estate



22 respondents indicated that they would be interested in learning more about how they could make an estate gift to St. Patrick or St. Mary's

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Move forward with a campaign to fund as many of the identified projects as possible.
- Recruit a strong group of volunteers to lead the campaign effort.
- Create a comprehensive communications plan that will address questions and concerns raised during the study.
- Ensure that all parishioners, alumni and local businesses are approached for support.



NEXT STEPS

Based on your feedback and a thorough review of the study, parish leaders fully endorse moving forward with a capital campaign. We are currently in communication with Archbishop Lucas and the Archdiocese of Omaha to obtain permission to proceed.

We will now transition to preparing for the campaign and concentrating on the following:

- Working with our architect and contractors to finalize details for the projects and establishing the campaign goals and priorities.
- Building a volunteer team to help with the campaign. We will need numerous parish families to serve in that role, and I hope that you will prayerfully consider it. If you are interested, please reach out to Kim Guyer at kguyer@steiergroup.com.
- In the coming weeks and months, we will make sure to communicate the progress of the campaign and address concerns raised during the study. We are in the process of creating a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document that will be distributed soon.

A GOOD HEAD START!

Even though our campaign is just getting off the ground, we already have a good head start on the fundraising.

- As you may have already heard, the parish secured a pledge from the Lavigne Family Foundation. The grant will match \$200,000 toward the HVAC project at St. Mary's Grade School. Based on the results of the study, we feel confident we can raise the \$200,000 necessary to fulfill the match.
- A generous parish family originally gave \$100,000 toward the roof replacement and since then has agreed to fund additional costs, including the gutters and downspouts. This gift now equals over \$130,000.
- Another donor has promised \$40,000 toward the concrete replacement of the church driveway and sidewalks.
- Another parishioner has been making regular payments over the last two years, with the intention of those funds going toward future church repairs. To date, \$34,780 has been set aside. These resources will be allocated to projects in the worship space.

I cannot tell you how inspiring and encouraging these acts of faith are. At the same time, it is not surprising. The Catholic community in O'Neill has always risen to the challenge, supported the Church and built on the legacy of the families before them. I am confident this undertaking will be equally successful.

THANK YOU to ALL our generous parishioners and alumni, and please know we are not asking for additional gifts at this time. As our plans are finalized this spring, every family in the St. Patrick and St. Mary's community will receive information detailing how they can invest in this important campaign.

Once again, thank you for participating in the planning study. Your valuable input will help to ensure the success of our upcoming campaign. May God bless our efforts as we move forward!

Ad multos annos!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Bernard G. Starman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Bernard G. Starman
Pastor