



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**D**uring the planning study for the *Blessed Sacrament: A Community of Hope* campaign, our supporters and friends asked good questions regarding the campaign, the proposed projects and the future of the parish. We hope these “Frequently Asked Questions” will help keep you better informed about our needs, the campaign and the future of Blessed Sacrament church and school. We will share more in the weekly bulletins leading up to Kickoff Weekend on June 19-20.

### WHY IS PAYING OFF THE DEBT A GOOD IDEA?

Blessed Sacrament secured loans totaling \$1,035,716 between 1998 and 2015 for school and church operating expenses. We are extremely blessed, however, to have an agreement with the diocese where we can retire that debt for \$296,000. So every \$1 that we pay results in \$3.50 coming off the loan. Most importantly, retiring the debt will allow us to pursue other necessary long-term capital improvements.

**WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR BLESSED SACRAMENT TO AVOID GOING BACK INTO DEBT?** Blessed Sacrament has been, and will continue to be, committed to live by a budget. Recent staffing reductions will make that easier to achieve. Additionally, we were prevented from raising school tuition in the past. That barrier has been removed. An increase, for those who are able to afford it, will bring in more revenue than we’ve had in the past.

**HOW MANY PARKING STALLS WOULD WE GAIN WITH THE ADDED LOT AND HOW WILL TRAFFIC FLOW IMPROVE?** Expansion directly to the east of the current parking lot will add 22 stalls, pushing our total to 67, an increase of nearly 50%. The new lot will include an exit and the existing lot will continue to be the entrance, creating better traffic flow in and out. Additional safety measures will be discussed with the Lincoln Planning Department to improve flow on Lake Street, while addressing safety for both drivers and pedestrians. The feasibility of a school “drop-off zone” also will be reviewed.

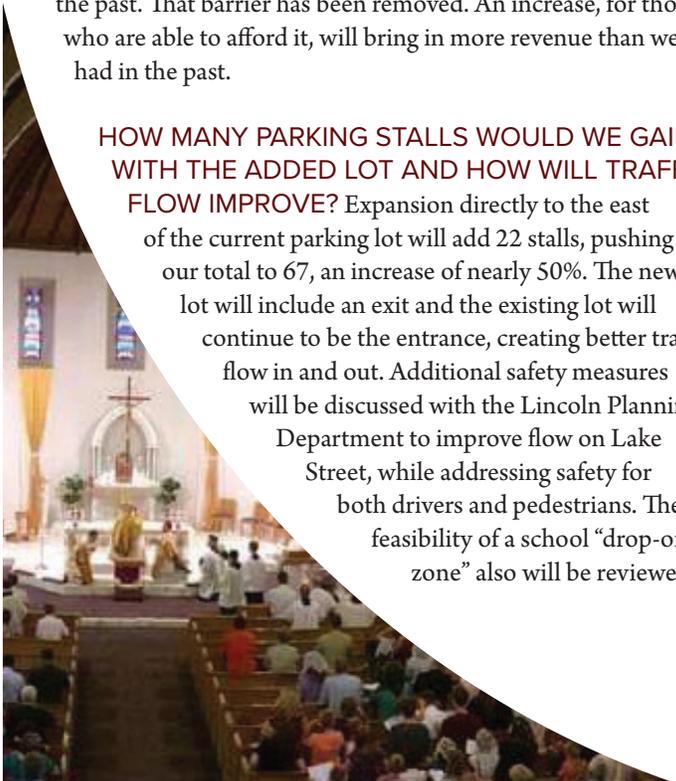
**WHY IS NOW THE BEST TIME FOR A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?** Blessed Sacrament can become financially solvent by paying off a Diocese of Lincoln loan and the mortgages on parish-owned rental properties, and also address important parish needs. We also considered the timing of the ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and parishioners returning to Mass, as well as completion of the *Joy of the Gospel* pledge period and our intention of finishing *Blessed Sacrament: A Community of Hope* before a potential Pius X campaign. Ultimately, there is no “perfect” time to conduct a campaign, but our recent planning study indicated there is broad parish support to move forward with the effort now.



### WHY DO WE OWN RENTAL PROPERTIES?

Acquisitions of the six rentals came at reasonable and sometimes below-market prices – a way to invest in the future. Our goal was not to own properties but to best utilize them, so purchases were done over time with the long-term hope of expanding the parish footprint. The future is here now. It is time to utilize these properties for the betterment of our community, leaving a legacy for future generations.

**HOW CAN CREATING THE GREEN SPACE AND RECREATION AREA BENEFIT THE SCHOOL?** With removal of the three properties to the south of the school, we will create green space and a recreation area that will not only beautify our campus but help make the school an attractive option to future families. It also will meet a need to expand the playground area for our current students. *(over)*



## WHAT GUARANTEES DO WE HAVE REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE SCHOOL?

Father Morin has been in education in our diocese for over 30 years and believes that Blessed Sacrament has as positive a future as any school where he's worked. Some changes already have been made that indicate that things are very much looking up. No private school ever has a guarantee for the future, but depends entirely on the support of its stakeholders. And at the heart of a strong parish is a strong school.



## WHAT IS THE TARGET ENROLLMENT FOR THE SCHOOL

**TO MEET BUDGETS?** Our goal is to increase our K-8 enrollment by

10% for the next school year, and then continue to work toward filling our building, which can accommodate up to 250 students. Blessed Sacrament has hired Sara Sharp as enrollment coordinator and is already reaping the benefits of her work.



## ARE WE GOING TO ASK BLESSED SACRAMENT ALUMNI TO CONTRIBUTE TO A CAMPAIGN? OR PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO BELONG TO OTHER PARISHES?

Yes, we plan to reach out to former students and families of the school to give them a chance to support the *Blessed Sacrament: A Community of Hope* campaign. We

hope that they will want to join us in this important effort!

Blessed Sacrament already receives support from the St. Mary's and Cristo Rey parishes for Blessed Sacrament students from their parishes.

## IN WHAT ORDER WOULD THE PROJECTS BE COMPLETED AND WHAT IS THE EXPECTED TIMELINE?

Blessed Sacrament plans to retire its debt and pay off its mortgages before beginning its capital improvements by replacing the roofs. After reaching that "Celebration Goal," the rest of our Phase One projects will be the parking improvement, demolition of three properties to create green space and remodeling the school kitchen as our "Challenge Goal."

## WHY ARE WE CREATING A PARISH HALL FUND AS PART OF THIS CAMPAIGN?

Construction of a parish hall has for years been something Blessed Sacrament has envisioned and seen as an important long-term need. It will serve more uses than we can imagine, and connecting it to the church will be an incredible convenience and further help bring together our parish community. Based on our fundraising potential revealed after our recent planning study, we see an opportunity to start a fund that can move us closer to that reality.

## HOW MUCH CAN WE REALISTICALLY RAISE FOR THE PARISH HALL?

After we reach \$1.2 million to meet our Phase One needs, our hope is to raise an additional \$800,000-plus to put toward the eventual construction of a parish hall – but with prayerful hopes that we can do more!

## HOW CAN I HELP NOW?

**PRAY.** Please include the campaign and our volunteers in your prayers as we work towards our goal.

**VOLUNTEER FOR THE EFFORT.** We welcome your support. Many hands make light work! Many opportunities are available. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Father Morin.