

# St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral



*Renew & Rejoice*

A CAMPAIGN FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS



# Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More

AND CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER DIOCESE OF PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE

*We exist to reflect Jesus Christ, to worship Him, and to proclaim His good news to all.*

Dear Faith Family,

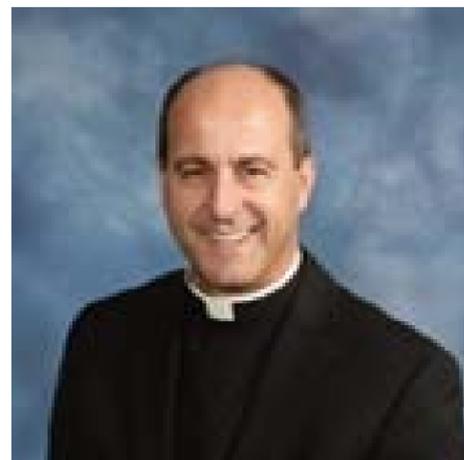
As a parish we have been blessed with many gifts of love in the lives of our people as they come to this place we call home. It is here we baptize our children, worship our God, are educated in our faith and receive from the table of the Lord. We exchange vows and become one and in the end we say our last farewells to those we loved as we celebrate their journey to God. St. Thomas More Parish is a place that is home to all of us who gather here in faith. This is a community of love that embraces our very souls in God's peace.

A short time back we experienced a terrible act of arson in our church sanctuary. The damage was confined; we made some temporary repairs to enable us to continue to worship and celebrate. However, now is the time to move forward with significant renovations that will fulfill the vision of the first bishop of our diocese when he elevated St. Thomas More Parish to a Co-Cathedral, and create a true work of art that inspires those who enter our church and elevates our worship in the celebration of our liturgies and sacraments.

My hope is that everyone who calls St. Thomas More home, will do their best to be part of this campaign. All of our gifts over the next three years will bring blessings to this place that we call home. Please read through this booklet carefully, and respond in kindness to the fellow parishioner who calls on you to visit. As you carefully consider your own part in this endeavor, please carry our effort to build our legacy in your daily prayer.

All graces and blessings,

Fr. John Cayer, Rector



## Renew & Rejoice CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, let us not labor in vain. Let the good work we set before ourselves be pleasing to you. May our hands, in union with your Divine Will, re-fashion a sanctuary fitting for your people to worship and glorify you.

As we build upon the gifts of those who have come before us, help us to create something new. Bless our efforts, may they be inspired by your Holy Spirit and may the work of these many hands show forth the beauty of your splendor and gather a people molded by you.

Amen.

## St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral Our Family of Faith

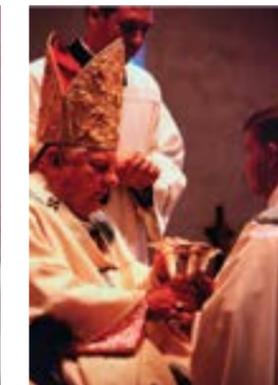
Our parish was established in 1967 by the Diocese of St. Augustine to serve the Catholic community and college students in Tallahassee. As Florida State University (FSU) has grown over the years, so has St. Thomas More. Today, we are home to about 1,000 registered families; yet, we serve many more. Our sanctuary has been the epicenter of spiritual growth for countless individuals and families.

One of the most successful ministries we are responsible for, the reason we were established, is ministering to the students of FSU. The growth of the Catholic Student Union (CSU) was further enhanced with the inclusion of the Brotherhood of Hope, Franciscan Sisters, TOR and the St. Paul's Outreach lay missionaries. Not only do we return inspired young Catholic leaders to communities far and wide, a significant number of the priests who serve the people of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, have come from our parish ministry. Including the large number of priests, we also take great pride in all the other religious vocations and marriages we have helped foster.

As Co-Cathedral, we also host the Red Mass, where all the Bishops of Florida come together each year at the beginning of the legislative session to pray with and for our government officials and their work in the coming year.



One of the first weddings  
Tom and Lynda Derzypolski  
August 27, 1967



## Our Challenge...



When elevated to the status of Co-Cathedral for the newly formed Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Bishop Rene Gracida acknowledged that the existing sanctuary would need to be upgraded to properly reflect its significance serving the people within the state capitol. Plans were discussed over the years but forward movement was made. An arson incident was the catalyst to move forward. A Sanctuary Renovation committee, made up of a cross-section of parishioners who know and love our cathedral-parish of St. Thomas More.

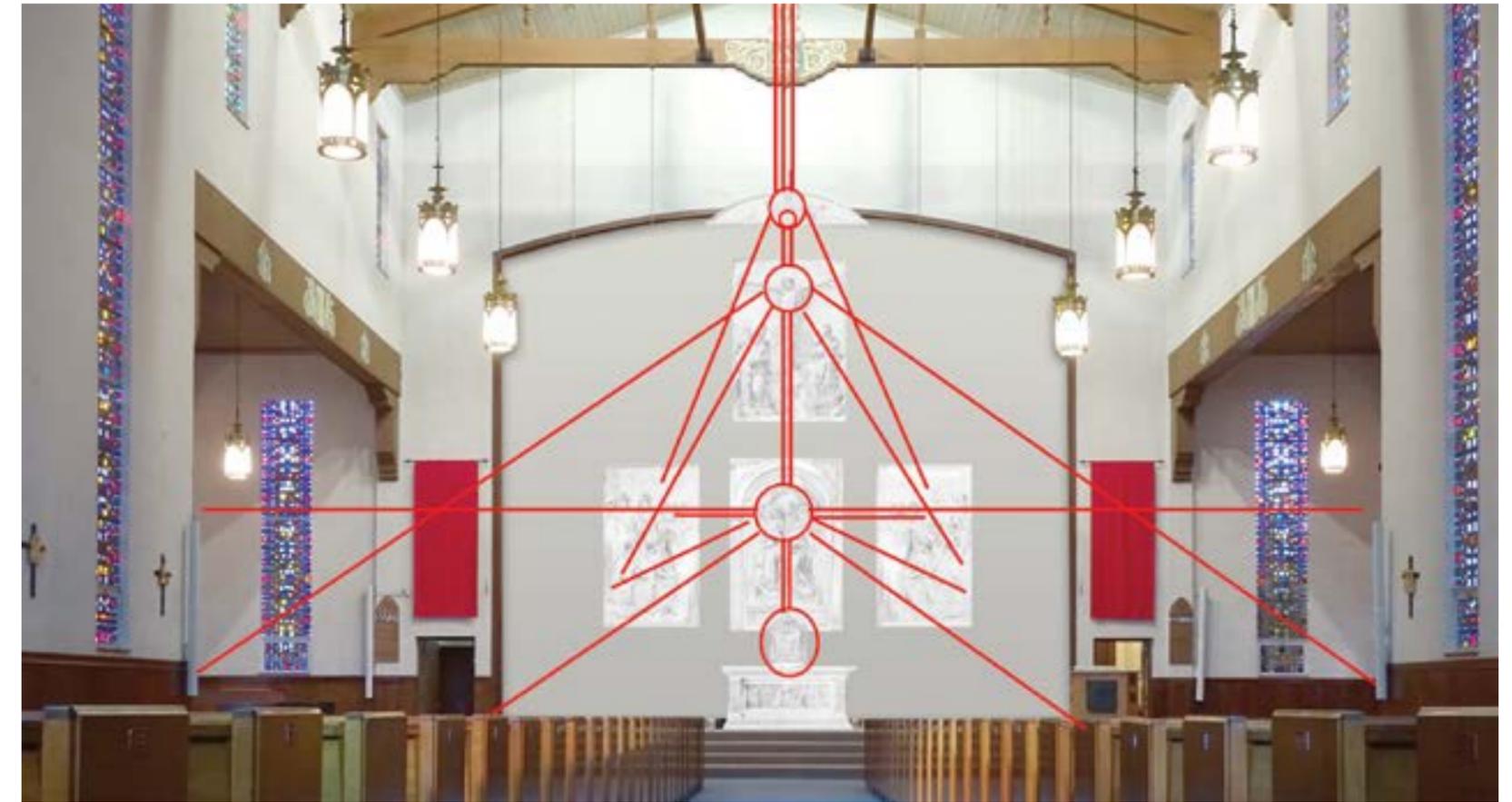
After numerous meetings and conversations with a few church design companies, we have settled upon working closely with GrandaUSA. Granda is a liturgical company that was started by Fr. Felix Granda, who founded his workshop in 1891 in Madrid, Spain. His satellite offices exist around the world, including the USA. They were engaged to help you create a beautiful worship experience and a legacy for future generations.

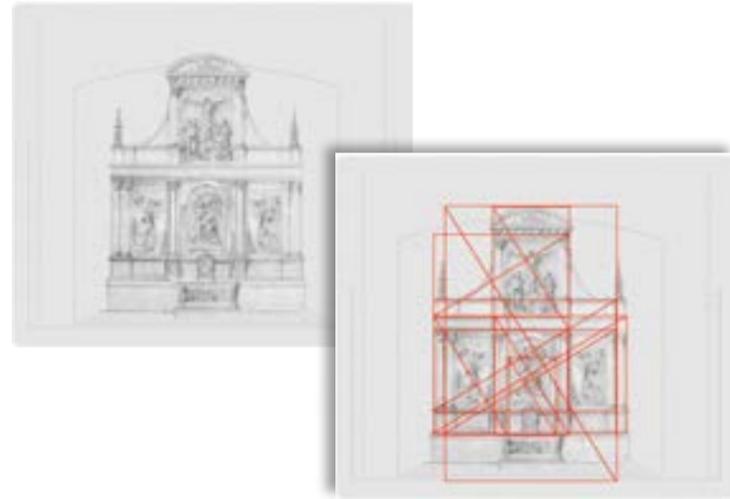


## Our Plan...

One of the weak points of the current sanctuary is the lack of focus on the altar/tabernacle. This issue is further exacerbated by the transept naves, which reinforce the horizontal visual scattering the eye's attention. Three large paintings covering the sanctuary wall gives an element of focus to the sanctuary wall, the horizontal composition is actually strengthening the horizontal component, directing the eyes sideways. Introducing another element of similar visual weight superposed to the triptych establishes a strong vertical, Christophanic axis, upon which we organize the most important items: The Crucifixion, the Incarnation, the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle and the Altar Itself. This double axis helps the eye to converge upon the altar. The effect achieved with the aforementioned 4 elements is further strengthened and the Iconographic program is completed with the Inclusion of the Most Holy Trinity on the pediment.

This composition can now be "dressed" in an architectural frame. In this case we have chose a neutral classical style, characteristic of the Spanish Renaissance and early baroque, establishing a connection with the missionaries' work in the early evangelization of the area.





The design for the altarpiece has been minutely studied to ensure the harmony among all its parts. This is commonly achieved using different ratios which can be either static or dynamic. The golden ratio, arguably the most important proportion throughout art history and is also known as the “divine proportion” for it is considered the most harmonious and beautiful of all. It consists of a rectangle that can be infinitely subdivided into a square and a rectangle of identical proportions, and thus generates fractal and spiral structures. It is profusely found in nature, from seashells to the seeds on a sunflower or the proportions between our limbs.

The sanctuary will be dominated by a carved scene of the crucifixion, with Our Lord on the Cross with the Most Holy Trinity above, accompanied by Our Lady, St John and Mary Magdalene. A hierarchy has been established for the larger pieces of artwork, reserving the most life-like and powerful, the sculptures, for the central mystery that is relived on the Altar, while the lower-level features flat paintings. The altarpiece is designed in the style of renaissance and early baroque Spain, a classical but neutral style that can blend well into the existing church without sacrificing personality nor stealing the spotlight from the artwork or the Liturgy it serves. The top columns have composite capitals, the most sophisticated and majestic of classical orders, while the ones below are Corinthian, this diminution is common in architectural history when two orders are superposed. The capitals will be further detailed with local flora. The architecture of the altarpiece has been deliberately three dimensional, with protruding half columns, architraves and finials in order to give it visual interest and movement from all viewpoints.

The Altarpiece has been made slightly higher than the existing sanctuary arch. This small gesture will have the effect of having the altarpiece visually breaking out of its the confines. Two tondi with the diocesan coats of arms have been added flanking the altarpiece, creating a gradation and hierarchy from the altarpiece to the arch and the rest of the sanctuary wall.

The themes for the three paintings have been very meticulously studied for their catechetical and symbolic potential. They are conceived as a single composition, set in landscape reminiscent of the Apalachee plains and forests. The central panel is occupied by the Mystery of the Incarnation, Our lady seated upon a throne, herself the throne of the Child Jesus, watched over by St Joseph, forming the “earthly trinity” as a reflection of the one above. On the left side we find the Church Triumphant represented by the patron Saints of the Diocese, Thomas More, Michael and Elizabeth Ann Seton; also incorporating St Augustine as a reference to the mother Diocese. The right side represents a Franciscan Missionary accompanied by three Apalachee converts, representing both the history of Christianity in the region and the importance of being missionaries everywhere we go.



The Altar, Ambo and pedestal have a clean, simple design so as to not distract the attention from what happens atop. They will be built in light cream marble with red panels representing the Blood of the Sacrifice, and golden accents. The Altar will have a sepulchrum or relic capsule.





# Achieving Our Goal

MAKING A FAITH PROMISE COMMITMENT is a prudent, practical, and responsible form of stewardship. Nearly everyone believes in a commitment when dealing with personal financial affairs, when arranging for loans or other forms of credit, or when saving for future expenditures. Now is the time to use this same kind of reasoning and common sense to care for our combined interests as a church community. It would be impossible to raise enough money through cash donations or “gifts of convenience.” We must rely on everyone to plan a personal three-year goal and then accomplish it, one step at a time.

To the right is a model campaign pyramid that is often used in fund raising efforts to visualize what is needed to achieve a minimum goal of \$1,400,000. While the pyramid model helps us see what is needed in practical terms, it is the power of the Holy Spirit and the depth of our commitment to our faith, and our faith family here at our parish that will see us fulfill the promise that began with the parish dream of a complete family life center.

## St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral \$1,400,000 Success Pyramid



# Faith Promise Gift Plan Chart

<b>Total Pledge</b>	<b>3 Annual Payments</b>	<b>12 Quarterly Payments</b>	<b>Suggested 36 Monthly Payments</b>
\$140,000	\$46,667	\$11,666	\$3,888
\$90,000	\$30,000	\$7,500	\$2,500
\$66,000	\$22,000	\$5,500	\$1,833
\$50,000	\$16,666	\$4,167	\$1,389
\$36,000	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$1,000
\$25,000	\$8,333	\$2,083	\$694
\$15,000	\$5,000	\$1,250	\$417
\$9,000	\$3,000	\$750	\$250
\$4,500	\$1,500	\$375	\$125
\$3,600	\$1,200	\$300	\$100
\$1,800	\$600	\$150	\$50

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the cost of the project and when will construction begin?**

The current cost is estimated at \$1,800,000. We have \$400,000 in savings and the balance will come from campaign gifts. We hope to begin construction this summer.

### **Will all member families be asked to give?**

Each member family will be asked to make a sacrificial financial commitment. The total amount of your Faith Promise may be paid over a three-year period and, in most cases, is fully tax-deductible.

### **How much should I give?**

After prayerful consideration, you should select an amount that your family can sacrifice given your financial resources and obligations. Recommendations are included in the Faith Promise Giving Plan.

### **Gifts of Stock**

If a stock has been held long-term (over one year), the donor does not have to pay capital gains tax and is allowed a tax deduction for the full value of the stock. Call the parish office for instructions.

### **Is my contribution in addition to my regular tithes and offerings?**

Yes. Your contributions for this project are in addition to your regular tithes and offerings. It is important to continue your regular offering to fund ongoing parish operations.

### **What if I can't support the campaign financially at this time?**

Please pray for the parish's success and consider participating in the future if circumstances were to change.

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.*

*Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.*

*Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.*

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