



ST. MICHAEL MISSION

85 Church Ave.
Burlington, TX 76519



DIOCESE OF AUSTIN

6225 Highway 290 East
Austin, TX 78723

(512) 949-2400
encounteringchrist@austindiocese.org
encounteringchristcampaign.org

Dear Friends,

Our gracious Lord has blessed us abundantly and, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we have grown together, evolving into the giving and caring community of faith we are today.

Through our Pastoral Plan, *Encounter that Leads to Transformation*, we have experienced Jesus Christ in a more intentional way, and developed a roadmap for a vibrant and secure future for our diocese. In this spirit, we have launched the *Encountering Christ* campaign to benefit parishes and important diocesan ministries. The campaign goal of \$85 million will allow us to fulfill our mission as we outlined in the Pastoral Plan.

St. Michael Mission will benefit from *Encountering Christ*, and has a goal of \$45,000. Of this amount, 30 percent or \$13,500 will remain at St. Michael to meet locally identified needs.

Please take a moment to review the impact *Encountering Christ* will have in both St. Michael and our diocese.

Sincerely in Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joe S. Vásquez".

Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez
Bishop of Austin



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fr. John Kelley".

Father John Kelley
Pastor, St. Michael Mission

St. Michael Mission
Burlington



“So we, though many, are one body in Christ.”

~ Rom 12:5

Encountering Christ

The Diocese of Austin is a thriving and growing community of more than 500,000 brothers and sisters in Christ. Our faith-filled presence has had a profound influence on Central Texas, and we continue to welcome more and more faithful to our parishes and missions each year.

Our diocese has seen many changes over the last 70 years. In the last dozen years alone, the number of Catholics in our area has grown by more than 25 percent. To address the challenges and opportunities these changes have created, the diocese spent a year praying about, reflecting upon and discussing a vision for our future. This year of discernment resulted in *Encounter that Leads to Transformation*, our Pastoral Plan inviting all members of our diocese to a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ, leading to renewal and transformation of ourselves, our homes, our ministries and our community.



Strengthened by prayer, *Encountering Christ* allows us — in a spirit of stewardship and unity — to build a vibrant and secure future for the Diocese of Austin.

This campaign will raise a minimum of \$85 million to fulfill the vision of our Pastoral Plan and share in:

- Supporting Our Clergy
- Strengthening Parishes
- Emerging Disciples
- Embracing Discipleship



\$12 million to support our clergy

The men who dedicate their lives to serving us need our support at all stages of their journey. By supporting our clergy from seminary through retirement, we will encourage seminarians and priests to experience the fullness of their vocation, lifting them up as they help us consider and live out our own calling.



\$14 million to embrace discipleship

Fostering encounters with Jesus Christ leads to a deeper engagement that will transform our ministry, resulting in true missionary discipleship. Witnessing our faith is an essential part of Catholic-Christian discipleship.



\$20 million for emerging disciples

Our responsibility as Catholics is to ensure future generations of disciples are well-formed, prepared and excited to embrace and share their faith with our world. We continually seek to support the spiritual development of our children and young adults as well as engage them in educational and formational opportunities.

\$35.5 million to strengthen parishes



Each parish in the diocese is rooted in the church but has its own identity and charism — and unique needs. *Encountering Christ* will have a significant impact on parishes, with \$22.5 million of the campaign's \$85 million goal remaining in parishes to address local needs. If we meet our campaign goal at St. Michael, we will receive \$13,500.

Over several decades, St. Michael has formed a solid base of disciples in Burlington who lead through their generosity. *Encountering Christ* allows us to continue to advance Christ's mission in our community as we join together to address the needs of the diocese and improve our parish.

Encountering Christ funds will be directed to the parish building fund, allowing us to maintain our church building at the level of glory it deserves for years to come while building a secure future for St. Michael. As we have been blessed, let us act as good stewards of these blessings through our support of the *Encountering Christ* campaign. Your prayers, generosity and sacrifice will ensure our success.



\$13,500 for the Parish Building Fund

Each month, St. Michael takes up a collection for our parish building fund to ensure we are able to meet current and future needs within the parish. In an effort to bolster our savings so we will eventually be able to replace our 20-year-old air conditioning system and protect our stained glass windows, we will direct our share of gifts to *Encountering Christ* to growing our parish building fund.



AN INVITATION

Let us reflect on the many blessings the Lord has given us. Recognizing that all of our material goods are gifts from the Lord, we are asked in the Gospel to give back a portion of these gifts in thanksgiving for God's generosity and goodness to us.

Your gift is an opportunity to leave a legacy for the Catholic Church in Central Texas. Scripture tells us that Christian stewardship goes beyond giving of our surplus. It is a gift made from our substance.

It is in this spirit of Christian stewardship that we undertake this extraordinary campaign of *Encountering Christ*.