



DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church is participating in *One Church, Many Disciples*, along with every parish in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. This first ever major campaign will build a Shrine for Blessed Stanley Rother, support faith formation ministries, and strengthen local parishes, including ours. We join with faithful from across the archdiocese who are also helping to ensure our local Church is strong and vibrant for generations to come.

As an archdiocese, we form a faith community of 200,000 Catholics in central and western Oklahoma; we truly are *One Church, Many Disciples*! With the Beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother, each of us has the opportunity to share in his legacy. What an occasion to live Jesus' call to missionary discipleship!

Please take a moment to review the impact *One Church, Many Disciples* will have on our parish. This campaign has my full support as your pastor, and I hope you will embrace this opportunity at St. Wenceslaus.



Reverend Long N. Phan, Pastor

OUR PARISH ROOTS

As early as 1891, Mass was being offered for settlers of this area. A church was built in Keokuk Falls around 1900, and named for St. Wenceslaus, the patron Saint of Bohemia. In 1901, a post office was opened in Prague, and a small Catholic church was built. Another Catholic church was built in town in 1903, to serve the growing population, and by 1907 the church in Keokuk Falls had closed, giving way to the new parish in Prague. A tornado destroyed the church in 1919, and a third church was built larger and of brick, and was dedicated in 1921.

In 1947, Fr. George Johnson was appointed pastor, and the 1921 church was in need of replacement. Fr. Johnson, pondering the need for a new church turned to a statue that he was given of the Infant of Prague and asked "Why don't you do something?" Before long, donations of cash, building materials, labor and talent began arriving, and the new church was underway. Bishop McGuinness suggested that the new church also become a national shrine for the Infant of Prague, and when the new church was dedicated to St. Wenceslaus was dedicated in February of 1949, the National Shrine of the Infant of Prague was inaugurated as well.





PARISH LIFE TODAY

Today, the Catholics of St. Wenceslaus gather as a community to continue the mission of Jesus Christ. Many improvements have been made including replacing the protective glass that protects and preserves our beautiful stained glass windows, new lighting inside and outside the church making it safe, efficient and inviting, and landscaping to keep our church beautiful and inviting for our parishioners and all of the pilgrims who visit the shrine.

OUR CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City's campaign, *One Church, Many Disciples*. This campaign will enable the building of a shrine for Blessed Stanley Rother, and will fund shared ministerial needs. Through participating in this campaign, St. Wenceslaus will raise significant funds toward the needs of our beloved community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve the parish campaign goal of \$95,000. St. Wenceslaus will receive 20% of all funds we raise up to the goal, totaling \$19,000. Plus, 50% of every dollar raised above the goal will be returned to St. Wenceslaus.



OUR SHARE OF THE FUNDS

Through the *One Church, Many Disciples* campaign, we will not only play a significant role in this historic moment in the Church's history, but we will also be able to support exciting new projects at St. Wenceslaus.

With St. Wenceslaus' share of the funds raised in this campaign effort, we will address ???. In addition, we plan to ???.

