DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

St. Francis of Assisi 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. Francis.

Fr. Novak
Very Reverend William L. Novak, V.G., Pastor

OUR PARISH ROOTS

For more than 110 years, the site of St. Francis of Assisi Parish has been important to the history of the Church in Oklahoma. The early beginnings of the parish were in 1906 with the dedication of the Bishop Meerschaert House and Chapel, continuing with the establishment of Rosary School in 1928, and the dedication of the present church in 1947, the Shrine of Saint Francis. Over the years, the parish has been served by two bishops, a dozen parish pastors, the Sisters of Mercy, the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, a Sister of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and has been home to many thousands of lay faithful.

In July of 2013, Father William Novak who is Vicar General of the Archdiocese came to our parish. His active involvement in the parish and surrounding neighborhood has re-energized the school and church—uniting us more closely as a faith community of Catholic Christians.

Our patron St. Francis of Assisi dedicated himself completely to Christ. His example shows us to put nothing before Christ and strive throughout our life to maintain a personal relationship with Him.
PARISH LIFE TODAY

Now ready to face the future with faith, hope and love for our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church, we are a parish of 1,200 families and still growing, building upon the rich heritage of the past and committed to our charge by God for the future. Through the successful campaign “Build Up My Church,” we have recently dedicated a new Family Life Center and work is underway with the church addition and other significant improvements to the facilities and campus of the parish. The addition will include a men’s and women’s restroom, an extended, handicap accessible porch for gathering before and after Mass, an archway leading to the Parish Hall and Meerschaert House and a low brick wall wrapping around a formal garden underneath the five historic sycamore trees. Other projects to come include renovation of the Parish Hall, an addition to the school and Pre-K playground, a playground/park area at the southwest corner of the property and 50 additional parking spaces.

OUR CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

By participating in One Church, Many Disciples we will fulfill our obligation as Catholics of the archdiocese and join all other parishes to strengthen the mission and ministry of the local Church. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church also will raise significant funds towards the current needs of our beloved community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve our goal of $1,415,000. St. Francis will receive 20% of all funds raised up to the goal, totaling $283,000. In addition, 50% of every dollar raised above our goal will be returned to help meet needs of the parish.

OUR SHARE OF THE FUNDS

St. Francis will use its share of the funds raised through One Church, Many Disciples to make improvements to the interior of the church. This will include the pews and kneelers, which are in need of repair and restoration, in addition to the original terrazzo church floor which will be repaired and refinished. Our parish share will also be used to help fund our remaining capital campaign projects, in particular the Parish Hall and Early Childhood School Addition.