DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

St. Teresa of Avila parish is participating in *One Church, Many Disciples* along with every church 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 St. Teresa of Avila. 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 St. Teresa of Avila. This campaign has my full support and, as your pastor, I hope you will embrace this opportunity here at St. Teresa of Avila.

*Rev. Prakash Madineni, Pastor*

OUR PARISH ROOTS

St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church was founded shortly after the second Oklahoma Land Run, in September of 1891. The men, who participated in the Run were joined by their families in 1892.

The parish was founded by ten Polish families, who first lived in dugouts and tilled the land on their new 160-acre farms. United in their Polish heritage and Catholic faith, they began meeting in each other's homes to pray the Rosary and sing hymns. A circuit-riding priest would come once or twice a month to offer Mass.

In 1897, John Beal donated the land and members donated labor to build the church on the site of the present-day cemetery. Unfortunately, that church burned March 13, 1923, leaving the now 200 parishioners without a church building. A temporary church was constructed, and the work was completed on the new church in time for the first Mass to be celebrated on Christmas Eve 1925.

The school prospered along with the town and on July 5, 1956, ground was broken for the present-day parish hall and classrooms. In March 1983, an educational building was constructed debt-free.
PARISH LIFE TODAY

St. Teresa of Avila Parish continues its proud history as a warm, friendly, and generous community of faith. The Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters work to enliven spirits and support special activities throughout the parish. The St. Vincent de Paul society see to the needs of the disadvantaged, and our Youth Group ministers to our young. Our Religious Education and RCIA ministries ensure that children and those new to the faith are well informed, well prepared for their sacraments, and ready to answer Christ’s call in their lives.

OUR CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

St. Teresa of Avila 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. Teresa of Avila will raise significant funds toward needs of beloved community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve the parish campaign goal of $375,000. St. Teresa of Avila will receive 20% of all funds we raise up to the goal, totaling $75,000. Plus, 50% of every dollar raised above the goal will be returned to St. Teresa of Avila.

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. Teresa of Avila.

With St. Teresa of Avila’s share of the funds raised in this campaign effort, we will:

Renovate the Religious Education Building
An updated environment for Religious Education and parish meetings.

New Parish Offices
Relocating the parish offices to the Religious Education building will allow allow more dedicated office space and free the Rectory for relaxation of our clergy.