DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

A Message from Father Jarek,

Saint Anthony of Padua 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. Anthony. 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. Anthony. This campaign has my full support and, as your pastor, I hope you will embrace this opportunity here at St. Anthony.

OUR PARISH ROOTS

Like that of Okarche, Okeene’s name is a composite, made up of letters from the words Oklahoma, Cherokee, and Cheyenne. The Okeene area, located in the Cimarron River valley, was illegally occupied by white men even before the 1892 Run. The town site was occupied on the first day of the Run, but its three-days-by-wagon distance from Hennessey and problems with crossing the treacherous Cimarron, did little to encourage its growth. Not until the arrival of two railroads in 1901 did Okeene begin to grow.

Bishop Meerschaert dedicated the first church on the outskirts of town in 1900. Father Urban de Hasque of Hennessey was the missionary. A large brick church was built in 1921 at a cost of $65,000; it is still in use to this day.

During the pastorate of Monsignor Paul Van Dorpe, the church was known for its remarkable decorating scheme that was intended to teach lessons about the faith. Its most renowned feature was the pulpit, which was shaped like the prow of a fishing boat.
PARISH LIFE TODAY

Today, St. Anthony of Padua is very active, with multiple clubs and ministry groups that benefit the faith community in Okeene. With an active Altar Society, Knights of Columbus, and youth group, St. Anthony provides a well-rounded array of ministries for the diverse faith community in Okeene. St. Anthony also hosts a variety of community events, such as graduation celebrations and bible studies.

OUR CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

Saint Anthony 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. Anthony will raise significant funds toward the needs of our beloved community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve the parish campaign goal of $190,000. St. Anthony will receive 20% of all funds we raise up to the goal, totaling $38,000. Plus, 50% of every dollar raised above the goal will be returned to St. Anthony.

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. Anthony.

With St. Anthony’s share of the funds raised in this campaign effort, we will begin funding a new parish hall. The parish hall is one of the most important communal gathering places for our faith community. Building a new parish hall will alleviate our spatial constrictions that exist in the current set up.

Parish Hall Construction