



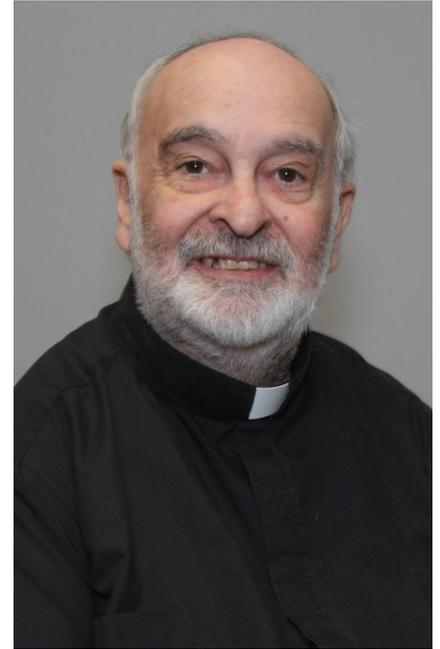
## DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

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



*Rev. Edw T. Menasco*

Rev. Edward T. Menasco

## OUR PARISH ROOTS

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The Catholic Church in Bison was comprised mainly of Czech farmers, and it was a Czech-speaking priest from Hennessey, Fr. Joseph Sinkmajer, who first visited them in 1904. Father Sinkmajer did not remain long in Oklahoma Territory, however; another Czech-speaking priest, Fr. Joseph Luser, the pastor at Yukon, also paid visits to the Catholics around Bison, and it was he, in 1908, that obtained the first pledges towards a church. The pledges received led to full construction of St. Joseph in 1909. Bishop Meerschaert presided at its dedication to St. Joseph on October 14, 1909.

Father Andrew Thomas was in the parish only briefly, but he was responsible for obtaining the diocesan shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, dedicated in 1951. The Fatima cult was strong among American Catholics for many years, and numerous parishes sent annual pilgrimages to Bison. The shrine was destroyed by an electrical fire resulting from a storm in 1992, but was rebuilt and Archbishop Beltran dedicated it on October 30, 1994.



## PARISH LIFE TODAY

Today, St. Joseph is very active, with multiple clubs and ministry groups that benefit the faith community in Bison. Most notably, the Archdiocesan Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima is a peaceful and inspiring place of prayer. Since its dedication in 1951, the shrine, the only one of its kind in Oklahoma, has been hosted and maintained by the parishioners of St. Joseph. The shrine is open 24/7, every day of the year. The shrine welcomes pilgrims and pilgrimages from everywhere to come and pray in devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.



## OUR CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

Saint Joseph 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. Joseph will raise significant funds toward the needs of our beloved community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve the parish campaign goal of \$115,000. Saint Joseph will receive 20% of all funds we raise up to the goal, totaling \$23,000. Plus, 50% of every dollar raised above the goal will be returned to St. Joseph.



## 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. Joseph.

With St. Joseph's share of the funds raised in this campaign effort, we will continue to contribute to the parish hall renovations. The parish hall is one of the most important communal gathering places in our parish, and the renovations will continue to update and improve this space.



**Parish Hall Renovations**