DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

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

Rev. Joseph M. Irwin

OUR PARISH ROOTS

The first pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church was Fr. John Metter. He was a young, energetic priest from the East Coast. Fr. Joseph Duffy then became pastor in 1960. St. Andrew’s in Moore became a new mission of St. Joseph’s in 1962, and the university apostolate formally became a parish in 1966; it is known today as St. Thomas More. The 1960s saw a lot of change at St. Joseph’s.

In the early 1990’s the demographics of St. Joseph’s began to change. In 1994 St. Joseph’s had 1,000 registered families, 950 of whom were Anglo or non-Hispanic and 50 of whom were of Hispanic origin. But then the winds of change came to St. Joseph’s yet again with three significant events.

In 1993, a new Catholic parish was founded in Norman named St. Mark’s. St. Joseph’s saw a significant number of its own transfer to St. Mark’s as founding members. One year later in 1994, a Spanish mass was started at St. Joseph’s. Opening its doors to welcome recent immigrants from Mexico and other parts of South and Central America was not an easy thing to do. Today, that immigrant community has grown into a vibrant part of St. Joseph’s. Then in 1995, the third major change happened with the moving of All Saints School from St. Joseph’s to St. Mark’s.

We find ourselves twenty years removed from these events. Despite two decades of change, today St. Joseph still has 1,000 families. However, today 600 are Anglo or non-Hispanic and 400 are of Hispanic origin. God has been faithful.
PARISH MISSION

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Norman, Oklahoma, exists to proclaim Jesus Christ, who is the Savior of the world. Jesus invites us into relationship with Him, to become His disciples, and to continue His Mission. Our core values center on Hospitality: a profound openness to welcome all as Christ, Reverence: a deep abiding belief in the inherent dignity that exists in all of God’s creation, and Charity: God shows the poor His "First Mercy," and so must we. This is all unified in one overarching message, Go Make Disciples!

OUR CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

We now have an excellent opportunity to participate in One Church, Many Disciples. Through participating in this campaign, St. Joseph Parish will raise significant funds towards the current needs of our beloved community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve our goal of $1,025,000. St. Joseph will receive 20% of all funds raised up to the goal, totaling $205,000. In addition, 50% of every dollar raised above our goal will be returned to our parish.

OUR SHARE OF THE FUNDS

Through the One Church, Many Disciples campaign, we will not only play a significant role in this historic moment of our archdiocese, but we will also be able to support exciting new projects here at St. Joseph’s. Our share of the funds raised in this campaign effort will go towards renovations of the Fr. Stanley Rother Building. The old Religious Education building needs a new roof and renovations to the interior. By updating and reimagining the space, we will be able to reorient it for parish use, especially focusing on gathering spaces.