DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

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

Rev. Robert T. Wood

ST. MARK’S PARISH ROOTS

The Catholic faithful of West Norman, were recognized as needful of a parish of their own as far back as the 1960’s. In 1991, Fr. John Metzinger was assigned as pastor, and the first Mass of what would become St. Mark the Evangelist was held in the ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel with 350 persons attending. Land for a parish home was soon purchased, and the parish made its goal to be in the new facility by Easter of 1993, when Archbishop Beltran blessed the new parish center the Wednesday of Holy Week.

By the fall of 1997, the parish had swelled to 675 families and the need for a larger church was apparent. Groundbreaking took place in 1998 for the new church, with seating for one thousand. The new church was dedicated in December of 2000 and continues to serve the parish to this day.
PARISH LIFE TODAY

St. Mark is made up of people from all backgrounds faithfully trying to grow as brothers and sisters in Christ, and bring the Good News to the larger community. Outreach ministries like St. Vincent de Paul and Daily Bread assist the needy and disadvantaged in the community, while Total Youth Ministry and Mother’s Day Out see to the particular needs of parishioners. The choir, ushers and altar servers ensure masses are beautiful and reverent, and Religious Education ministries make sure children and those new to the Catholicism are well informed about the faith, and well prepared for their sacraments. Through these activities, and those of so many parishioners, St. Mark continues the to fulfill the mission of Christ.

THE PARISH’S CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

St. Mark 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. Mark will raise funds toward local needs of the faith community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve the parish campaign goal of $1,765,000. St. Mark will receive 20% of all funds we raise up to the goal, totaling $290,000. Plus, 50% of every dollar raised above the goal will be returned to St. Mark.

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 here at St. Mark the Evangelist.

With St. Mark’s share of the funds raised in this campaign effort, we will begin a project to build a new youth center. This provides two major benefits:

Provides an updated and expanded facility for young Catholics of the parish.

Allows for space in the current facilities for an expansion of class and meeting rooms available to the whole parish.