

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



**Q:** *Why does St. Bernadette Parish need a new church?*

**A:** The very limited seating of the present church (which cannot be expanded) makes it impossible to properly serve the spiritual needs of our current membership. Studies show that the Amelia/Pierce Township Catholic population will grow rapidly in the near future. Finally, in less than ten years, St. Bernadette will have a reduced weekend Mass schedule. An adequate worship space will secure the parish's future, grow the school and welcome the human, spiritual and financial resources of many, many newcomers.

**Q:** *How big will the new church be? What will it look like?*

**A:** Seating will be 500, expandable when needed to 700. There will be a large gathering space with baptismal pool, bathrooms, the sacristy and a bride's/meeting room. Church seating will likely be both pews and chairs with kneelers, on three sides of the altar; visibility will be excellent. There will be a Eucharistic Chapel for private devotion. The atmosphere will be modest but attractive, reverent but not ostentatious.

**Q:** *How much money do we have and how much do we need to raise?*

**A:** The entire project will cost approximately \$1.8 million. This includes the furnishings. We have right at \$850,000 on deposit that is available for our use. Therefore, we need to raise \$950,000+. We will not borrow any money to build our new church, and we all need to understand that construction costs are rising daily. The quicker we can raise the \$950,000 the less we will have to pay in rising construction costs.

**Q:** *What type of gifts will I be expected to give?*

**A:** Parish leaders will be inviting three types of gifts for this Campaign. And, everyone will be invited to give their financial gift. However, we will also be inviting Gifts of Prayer and Gifts of Involvement. The scope and magnitude of these gifts are entirely up to you and your family. We hope you will consider sacrificial gifts for the good of the parish today and for years to come.

**Q:** *I can make a limited gift immediately, but I can pledge more over the next two years. Is that acceptable?*

**A:** Obviously, we are grateful for everyone's gift at any time, and there will certainly be later financial needs associated with the new building. Immediate gifts are being emphasized because we must have the entire cost in hand before ground can be broken, and because inflation drives up that cost thousands of dollars each month.

**Q:** *When and how will I be invited to participate?*

**A:** The Campaign will be conducted between September 2007 and December 2007. Every parish family will be personally invited to participate. Many of the invitations will take place in the following ways:

- One on one visits
- Home receptions
- Parish receptions
- After Mass receptions
- Packet delivery

**Q:** *What guarantee do I have that my financial gift will only go to the new building fund?*

**A:** A separate account in Amelia has been opened specifically for the Campaign Building Drive. All donations to the campaign will go directly into this account. If you want your money to go to the Campaign Building Fund, please use the special Campaign envelope. Please, do not drop a check into the collection plate without using the envelope. There will be a supply of envelopes available through the mail and in the back of church.

**Q:** *Who is going to know what my gifts are?*

**A:** Your gifts will remain confidential. No members of the Campaign Team—only the Pastor, Business Manager and Parish Secretary—will know anyone's financial gift or pledge amount. You will be asked to fill in your Letter of Intent and put it in the Campaign envelope and seal it. Under Father Bill's supervision, the parish office will open the envelopes, record the gifts and for the financial gifts, deposit the money into a separate account. An alphabetized listing of people who give gifts to the Campaign will be made available but no amounts of money will be published. Families and/or individuals who wish to remain anonymous will not be listed.

**Q:** *What role does the Archdiocese have in this Campaign?*

**A:** The Archdiocese has given us written permission to move forward with construction once the money is in the bank.

**Q:** *When will construction begin?*

**A:** As soon as the final design is selected and all the money is collected. If the Capital Campaign is successfully completed by the end of the calendar year, and all of the money is in the bank, construction could begin in the spring of 2008.