April 2013

Saint Anne School is a beacon for the Catholic School System in Southeast Texas. Established 75 years ago by the people of Saint Anne Parish, it quickly grew to an almost unmanageable size with many more students per class than we would currently allow. Always a place where the Catholic religion was fostered and taught, the school was also known for its academic excellence by parents who understood the value of educating their children in the Catholic faith.

The families sending children to Saint Anne School have taken responsibility for the operation of the school, which is a substantial challenge. In the past several years, however, we have been facing some major repairs that were too expensive to place in the annual operational budget. We have reached the conclusion that help from the Catholic community to fund these major maintenance items are needed.

I have listed the major maintenance issues to be addressed in this mini-capital campaign for our school. First, we will cement the remaining area of the parking area/driveway. One half of this project was completed and paid for by Saint Anne Parish since it also uses the areas for church parking on Sundays. The remainder needs to be completed at an estimated cost of $140,000.

The second important need is the repair of the gym roof. The roof leaks and was not properly restored after two hurricanes, and no recourse is left. It will run about $65,000.

Third, a minor but important need is for quality blinds in the primary building classrooms. The current blinds do not block the morning sunlight, which casts glares on the SmartBoards and distracts students. The budgeted cost for this project is $8,000.

Fourth, the outer walls of two classrooms in the very oldest part of the primary building are sinking due to the erosion of the earth beneath the building. The floor on the street side is four inches lower than the other side. We have been looking worriedly at this for two years and have taken some actions to halt erosion. Professionals advise us that sturdy anchors are needed to secure the wall, a new level floor must be poured, the cracks must be patched, and down-spouts provided for the roof. We believe that a permanent fix will be around $40,000.

Needs for minor issues surface each year, and they are included in the operational budget each year. The total items in this campaign are out of reach for the operational budget of the school, which is why we are having a mini-capital campaign. All money that is collected will be designated to address these issues and needs. All funds raised over this amount will be placed in a fund to be used only for future major maintenance, distinct from operational monies.

We are setting a goal of $500,000. Saint Anne Parish has $150,000 which it will use to match one dollar for every two that are donated to this campaign.

I hope you can contribute to this mini-capital campaign for Saint Anne School,

Msgr. William Manger
Case Statement for the Mini-Capital Campaign for Saint Anne School

This will include items of maintenance and construction that could not possibly be included in expenses for the yearly operational costs of the school. Each of these will add to the better operation of Saint Anne School.

A. Concrete the remainder of the driveway and gym parking - $140,000
B. Repair the roof for the gym - $65,000
C. Install efficient blinds for primary building - $8,000
D. Secure the base of the two primary building classrooms, level the floor, and add downspout - $40,000
E. Original proposal included a central air system for the older primary building, but no satisfactory design was submitted. This means that in the future window units will need replacing with more efficient and quieter machines.

Goal is $500,000

Policies:
1. The items will be contracted and accomplished in the order in which they are listed.
2. Once they are completed additional money received will be placed in a reserve fund to be used for major maintenance on Saint Anne School Buildings.

The surface of the drive and parking: the driveway is used every school day for the pickup and drop off lines. All major, large-truck deliveries enter and exit on this surface. School sporting events and tournaments are held in the gym, and spectators' vehicles, buses, and other traffic fill the parking area. In short, it is an often-used facility and requires regular maintenance. Additionally, the driveway gathers water after rain and puddles in back of youth house. In contrast, the newly paved area is puddle-free and provides a nice smooth surface.

We Have A Lot To Offer Under One Roof

The gym roof leaks and water promotes a mildew problem in the acoustical panels. If not fixed, these will rot and cease to buffer the dripping water to the floor.
Learning On A Solid Foundation

The very first classroom section to be built 75 years ago contained four classrooms. It was used for school and on Sunday for church services while the church was being built. The external walls of the two classrooms (street side) have been sinking for ten years. Now it is quite noticeable and must be repaired.

There is now a difference of four inches between one side of the room and the external wall side. A large tree, which contributed to the erosion, was removed, but better under-support is needed for the wall. A level floor must be poured and down spouts added to the roof to eliminate the accumulation of water at the wall edge.

Our Future Is So Bright, But We Need New Shades

The current blinds are old and do not successfully block the morning sun. Although a bright classroom can be beneficial, too much light casts glares on the SmartBoards and distracts students. SmartBoards are valuable learning tools that broaden study options for students at all grade levels.