Thank You for Your Sacrifice and Commitment!

My Dear Friends in Christ,
As the four year redemption period is drawing to a close for most people who pledged their support to the Faith in Our Future Campaign, I wish to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who participated and made it a success. What a tremendous show of stewardship of the Church! During my first years as your bishop, I have visited so many of our parishes, missions, and schools to witness firsthand some of the projects that have been made possible through your generous support. Your gifts have restored our beautiful churches, sustained our Catholic schools, and helped us build endowments to support our seminarians and provide medical assistance funding for our retired priests. In this edition of the newsletter, I hope to give you another look at the case for this historic campaign and the good works you have made a reality. With prayers that your heart be filled with the Joy of the Gospel, I am gratefully yours in Christ.

Most Rev. James P. Powers
Bishop of Superior

The Good Works of Faith in Our Future
Continued Opportunities for Charitable Giving

Launched in 2013, the $16 million four year Faith in Our Future Campaign has enabled the Diocese of Superior to provide education to seminarians, care for aging priests, support schools and provide funding for countless special parish projects. These are endowment and charitable giving opportunities for our donors to help build for the future well after the formal phase of the Campaign has concluded.

Campaign Update
The “Big Picture” Totals
As of May 2017
Total Pledged: $17,810,410.41

Total Pledged  $17,810,410.41
Amount Collected $15,896,756.55
Percent Collected 89%
Amount Rebated to Parishes $2,969,320.09
Number of Responses  9,614

“What a tremendous show of stewardship of the Church!”
Endowing Our Future
The Mission Diocese Fund

The Faith in Our Future Campaign has helped to create two multi-million dollar restricted Endowment Funds: The Saint Augustine Fund for Seminarian Support to help meet the costs of providing for our current and future seminarians, and a fund to help supplement the costs of Medical Expenses of Our Retired Priests. They are part of the larger Mission Diocese Fund. In 2008, on the advice of over 80 Bishops, Catholic Extension formed the Mission Diocese Fund as a pooled investment fund on behalf of the Mission Dioceses of the United States.

The Fund applies the USCCB Socially Responsible Investing guidelines in its investment decisions.

The Funds investment consultant, Cambridge Associates, has a long and successful track record of advising large endowments on asset allocation strategies that allow portfolios to grow over the Long term while providing income to fund mission objectives. The firm grew out of a project undertaken for Harvard University and now includes client institutions such as Dartmouth, Notre Dame, Princeton, USC, Stanford, and Yale.

Support for Parish and Catholic School Needs

Wide Range Parish/School Projects

Every parish and school faces its own challenges and works hard in order to build up God's Kingdom here within our Diocese. Close to $3 million has been raised to date to help parishes and schools with wide ranging projects such as maintaining aging church structures to accommodate spiritual and educational formation needs. Some parish communities have been able to reduce parish debt or establish endowments that will generate income for parish and school ministries and services in the future. Others have augmented services by increasing personnel or resources for faith formation for adult, children, youth and young adult needs.

Faith in Our Future funding has been vital for many parishes to fulfill and continue the Church’s mission for their own faith community. This localized parish funding can be used in any manner the parish or school deems appropriate, as discerned through the planning of the parish leadership. In this way, our parishes have realized the maximum benefit from this campaign.
Medical Expenses of Our Retired Priests
Returning Our Blessings

Many priests in our Diocese, who have dedicated their lives to minister to the faithful, are approaching retirement age or are already drawing upon their retirement benefits. As our elderly priests enter this stage of their life, they often experience ongoing challenges that require added care and attention. Currently, in addition to the funding received from the priests’ retirement programs, there is an annual expense in excess of $200,000 to supplement gaps in Medicare health care insurance for retired priests. A multi-million dollar restricted endowment fund has been established to provide the necessary assistance to those priests in need in the foreseeable future.

The Saint Augustine Fund
Accepting Future Gifts for Seminarian Education

The Diocese of Superior is committed to providing for the pastoral and sacramental needs of parish communities by seeking, encouraging, and supporting men interested in serving the Church as priests. As the cost of all education has risen dramatically in recent years, so too has the cost of seminarian education and formation. There are various stages of an eight year education and formation program. The cost to educate and support one seminarian is approximately $35,000 to $40,000 annually. Depending on the number of seminarians, the collective cost to educate our future parish pastors represents a sizable share of the annual operating budget. We truly are blessed to be able to educate our seminarians, but with this blessing comes tremendous responsibility. The Faith in Our Future campaign has established a multi-million dollar restricted endowment to help meet the costs of providing for our current and future seminarians. This fund will continue to grow and be a wonderful opportunity for donors to make tax deductible contributions now and in the future.

Partnering For Success! Your timely pledge payments enable us to provide the necessary funding to parishes, schools and endowments. Should you have any questions or wish to add to your pledge, please contact Cathy Lovejoy at 715/394-0226 or e-mail at clovejoy@catholicdos.org.
Do you want to continue your support of the Seminarian Endowment Fund or other ministries of our Local Church after your Faith in Our Future pledge has been fulfilled?

The Faith in Our Future Campaign created The Saint Augustine Fund for Seminarian Support to provide for our current and future seminarians. This important endowment fund will continue to grow through direct donor support long after the last pledges for the campaign are fulfilled. A direct gift to The Saint Augustine Fund is an opportunity for you to continue support for men interested in serving the Church as our priests and pastors. For more information on this and other tax deductible contribution opportunities in support of your Local Church, simply contact Steven Tarnowski, MA at 715-394-0223 or email starnowski@catholicdos.org. Giving is also made easy at catholicdos.org.

Help Us Tell YOUR “Faith in Our Future” Parish Community Story!

WWW.CATHOLICDOS.ORG

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