

## LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

*For Our Children and the Future*

# RAPID GROWTH AT ST. SIMON CREATES NEW CHALLENGES

As parishioners at St. Simon the Apostle Church celebrate the tenth anniversary of their new location in Indianapolis, they already face a need for expanded space to accommodate their growing ministries. With the help of proceeds from the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign, their needs will be addressed.

“God continues to bless our efforts by adding an increasing number of individuals to our church. Since we relocated to this facility, the number of households in our parish has grown by 48 percent,” said Father Robert Sims, pastor.

“Because more and more people are seeking to develop their faith at St. Simon, we are now experiencing a lack of space and resources to help meet the needs of our various ministries and parishioners,” Father Sims said. “The *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign is absolutely essential to support our efforts to build new facilities and expand our ministries and outreach programs.”

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Sherri Cerar, co-chairperson of the parish’s *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign, echoed Father Sims’ concerns. “We’re bursting at the seams. We need meeting rooms and space for youth programs, rallies and retreats,” she said. “Our ministries have grown and expanded greatly in just the four short years that I’ve been a parishioner here. With adequate space, we can do a more effective job of outreach.”

The parish is planning to construct two buildings to meet those needs, Father Sims explained. A multi-purpose facility will be used as a gym and a venue for festivals and other parish events, and a family life center will house a nursery, youth activity space, offices, meeting rooms, a social area and space for performances. Basic architectural drawings have already been prepared, he commented, and will be finalized as soon as decisions are made on the buildings’ specific uses and their precise construction locations.



Father Sims added that proceeds from the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign will be used to enhance the church’s audio and video systems and create a more welcoming environment for volunteers and visitors.

St. Simon Church was originally built in 1961 on Indianapolis’ east side, but was relocated to Oaklandon Road in 1997. Two years later Father Sims was named

pastor. A Terre Haute native ordained in 1971, Father Sims spent many years at St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington before becoming pastor of St. Simon.

Today, St. Simon has 1,459 member families, up from 650 immediately following the relocation. Father Sims predicts that the parish will continue to grow, welcoming more than 100 new families every year.

St. Simon School has an enrollment of 740 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. It has been nationally recognized as a Blue Ribbon School for its academic excellence and annually ranks in the top 10 percent of educational institutions in statewide testing.

Father Sims is excited about the expansion plans. “More space opens the door of possibilities for new ministries as the future unfolds and welcomes a growing community into our family at St. Simon.”

*Legacy for Our Mission, the archdiocesan capital campaign, is guided by the principles of Christian stewardship and addresses future ministry needs of the archdiocese. By contributing to Legacy for Our Mission, you are helping your parish address its most urgent capital, operating and ministry needs as well as the shared ministries and home missions of the archdiocesan community.*

Please visit the new online home of the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign at [www.archindy.org/legacy](http://www.archindy.org/legacy). It can also be accessed at [www.LegacyforOurMission.org](http://www.LegacyforOurMission.org).