

LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

For Our Children and the Future

ST. MICHAEL'S MINISTRIES SEEK ROOM TO GROW

St. Michael Parish in Bradford now offers 70 different ministries to its members and the surrounding community. As the ministry outreach has grown over the decades, so has the demand for space. Today, the parish hall that has served so well for 35 years is now simply inadequate for current needs. With the help of proceeds from the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign, St. Michael hopes to build a parish life center that will provide additional space and truly be the hub of parish activity.

"Some time ago, we realized that our religious education facilities were not keeping pace with the increasing enrollment in our faith formation programs. Classes are being held in every available space in our church complex. We've reached seating capacity for our annual parish festival in September. While the educational and service needs of our parish are barely being met, we are unable to grow and flourish as we are called to do by Scripture," said Father John L. Fink, pastor since 2003.

Activities currently held in the parish hall would be moved to the new parish life center, along with offices of the parish staff. The center would have a gymnasium, rooms for smaller gatherings and an open area twice the size of the current hall, along with a much larger kitchen and pantry. Plans are also included for restrooms that meet the needs of all parishioners.

"Through the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign, we also hope to raise the funds necessary to enlarge our



current parish hall and remodel it into a long-needed education building," Father Fink said. The building would house all faith formation classes in a single facility, accommodate pre-school programs and provide accessibility to a shared library and resource room.

Roger Harbeson, *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign chairman and St. Michael parishioner for 23 years, commented, "We have a strong youth program that revolves around religious education and provides activities to build the connection with the church. We hope that with a new parish life center, that program will continue to grow. The *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign is integral to getting that project completed."

St. Michael Parish was founded in 1835 to provide services to immigrants who had moved into southern Indiana. Currently, there are 420 families in the parish and 60 students in its preschool. Membership is growing by about 10 families per year with many of them moving from nearby Louisville, Father Fink explained.

"The *Legacy for Our Mission* will help us realize our vision for the future and the mission we must fulfill. This is our chance to turn this vision of a parish life center into reality so we can leave our legacy, as those before us have, for generations to come. We have the obligation to continue in the spirit of our forefathers and leave a legacy for them," Father Fink said.

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. It can also be accessed at www.LegacyforOurMission.org.

Parishioners Make Unconventional Donations

While parishioners across the archdiocese are willingly making contributions to the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign, not everyone is making the traditional three-year pledge and writing a check.

At St. Michael, some parishioners are giving what they can but sometimes in slightly less conventional ways. A dance instructor is donating proceeds from lessons she gives. A cattle rancher donated a heifer. Still another contributed 12 new plates depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary that will be raffled off, one per month.