

# LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

*For Our Children and the Future*

## ARCHDIOCESE STRIVES TO ASSIST PRIESTS IN CONTINUING EDUCATION

As a priest Msgr. Paul Koetter has served the Catholic community in many ways. From an assistant chancellor for the archdiocese to a vocations director in the Office of Ministry Personnel, he has consistently shared his faith and dedicated himself to a lifelong journey of learning.

It may have been Msgr. Koetter's hectic schedule, or perhaps he simply needed to refresh his spirit. Ultimately he found an invigorating lesson when he took time to participate in a continuing education program focused on the Gospels as storytelling. Msgr. Koetter's experience is just one example of how the archdiocese has supported its priests and encouraged them to reflect upon their ministry.

"Going to this workshop emphasized the importance of oral tradition," said Msgr. Koetter, who serves today as pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. "The Gospels were originally passed along by word of mouth. This workshop is the sole reason I deliver the Gospel from memory every Mass. I try to bring oral tradition back to life for my parishioners."

Addressing priests' continuing education is one component of the *Legacy for Our Mission* capital stewardship campaign. Through the campaign, Catholics in central and southern Indiana are asked to contribute funds that will support a variety of needs. A portion of the campaign proceeds will be



used to help cover the costs for pastors who wish to pursue continuing education.

These opportunities help priests like Msgr. Koetter and others address their educational and spiritual development. Throughout the archdiocese approximately 150 priests serve more than 230,000 Catholics throughout 39 counties. Priests are called every day to serve the Church, to learn, teach and share the Catholic faith and to serve human needs. Funds from the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign will support priests as they rejuvenate their strength to do God's work.

"The archdiocese does not push one program or another for everyone. We, as individuals, have

the flexibility to choose what workshop or seminar will help us grow the most," said Father Jeffrey Godecker, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Indianapolis. "They do recommend that we continue to strive to improve our ministry and gain theological insight."

During a sabbatical several years ago, Father Godecker participated in a few writing workshops. His main goal was to become a better teacher. He learned how to use poetry in presentations to better communicate and connect with his listeners.

"It's a part of our vocation to try to improve the skills we have and to seek skills we never knew were possible," said Father Godecker. "That's why I participate in continuing education."

*Legacy for Our Mission, the archdiocese's capital campaign, is guided by the principles of Christian stewardship and addresses the needs of archdiocesan ministries such as continuing education. By contributing to the Legacy for Our Mission campaign through your local parish, a portion of your gift will be allocated to future ministry needs and distributed to efforts such as continuing education.*

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).