

LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

For Our Children and the Future

CONNERSVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The eastern Indiana city of Connersville has faced its share of economic challenges. This community, along with the rest of Fayette County, has been hit hard in recent years by factory closings and job losses.

Despite the difficult news throughout Fayette County and its surrounding communities, members of St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville have worked closely together to address local needs while contributing to shared ministries throughout the archdiocese. This year the parish has contributed to the *Legacy for Our Mission* capital stewardship campaign and made significant progress towards its goal.

In a message earlier this year to St. Gabriel parishioners, campaign co-chair and parish historian Bob Powers asked fellow Catholics for their support while expressing his confidence in the community effort: "Since 1881, when land was purchased for the location of our present-day church, St. Gabriel Parish members have constantly provided each succeeding generation with a beautiful and well-maintained facility," Powers wrote.

"I am certain that our present-day Catholic community will continue to embrace the challenges that face us today and respond in the same manner," Powers added. "Our *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign will not only provide for current and future needs of St. Gabriel Church, but for current and future needs of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis."



The *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign has generated a renewed sense of stewardship, according to the pastor, Father Stanley Herber, who has served St. Gabriel and the greater Connersville community since 1995.

"The campaign has renewed our willingness to volunteer time and talent," Father Herber said. "It went very smoothly. The parish seems so much more alive."

Powers, who co-chaired the campaign with parishioner Mark Boehmer, said sacrifices of time and volunteer spirit have energized the 800-family parish.

The results are helping St. Gabriel address a list of current and future needs in the parish, including:

- replacing the church's aging heating system with a new, higher-efficiency model
- repairing aging pews, flooring and interior walls within the church

- improving accessibility around the altar platform.

St. Gabriel also plans to invest a portion of the campaign funds into a parish endowment. These funds will help support future needs, which serves nearly 150 students in preschool through sixth grade.

While it's clear that much work and many future challenges await St. Gabriel parishioners, the parish is showing many signs of unity and determination. They are looking ahead with hope while working toward their campaign goals.

"The campaign staff was just outstanding—we put a significant effort into it. I was so pleased with everyone's involvement. Everyone we asked to do something jumped right in and said yes. People who contributed made a great impact on our efforts. They realized the needs and were willing to do what they could," Powers 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.