

LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

For Our Children and the Future

ST. MALACHY PLANNING NEW CHURCH AND SCHOOL TO HANDLE POPULATION EXPLOSION

During the mid-1800s, before St. Malachy in Brownsburg became a parish in 1869, Mass was celebrated at area homes and farms. One of those farms—located just four miles from the present church—will soon be the new site of St. Malachy. The farm belonged to the family of Marie Bersot, a member of the parish for nine decades who, in 2001, donated 40 acres of the farmland for the relocation project.

In recent years, the growth at St. Malachy has been so tremendous that parishioners determined that construction of an entirely new church was warranted. St. Malachy's capital campaign to relocate the entire parish campus, *Growing in Faith, Building in Hope*, was launched and later became a joint campaign with *Legacy for Our Mission*.

Parishioners are now being asked to pledge a total of \$6 million for Phase I of the campaign to build a church and prepare the site for the school and parish center. Phase II will include a new and larger school with gymnasium and athletic fields, parish offices and additional meeting space. The total cost of both phases will be \$27 million.

"Building a larger church will help relieve some of the pressure in the archdiocese," said Father Dan Staublin, now celebrating his tenth year as pastor of St. Malachy. "In addition, building a larger facility instead of creating another parish will help relieve pressure on the limited number of priests available. The diocese is helping us through the *Legacy for Our Mission* to meet our time line for ground breaking and construction of the new church."

The *Legacy for Our Mission* is vital to the future, commented business manager Lynda Curry. "We believe in supporting the larger Church. We're not just St. Malachy or the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.



We're all part of the Church. The archdiocese supports us in many ways, and we support them."

Parishioners have good cause to be concerned about future growth of the parish, which presently adds 125 households per year. Not only is the church located in the second-fastest growing county in the state, but the populations of the townships that the parish serves are expected to double in the next two decades. Those townships encompass the fast-growing communities of Brownsburg, Avon, Pittsboro and Lizton. Family membership in the parish is expected to nearly double from 2,200 today to 3,500 to 4,000 in the next 15 to 20 years.

The strain caused by inadequate facilities is readily apparent. At least two of the five weekend Masses are standing-room-only. Overflow crowds view highly attended liturgies—such as those at Christmas and Easter—on remote monitors in an adjacent meeting room. Social events cannot be scheduled between Masses for that reason. The parking lot itself is

too small, forcing parishioners to park on the adjacent football field. Parish meetings often must be held in parishioners' homes.

The situation is no different at St. Malachy School, where 430 students are enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade. Last year, the school celebrated its 50th anniversary. Creative scheduling enables many areas of the school to be used for multiple purposes, and every available space is now being used. Classroom aides are used to help keep the student/teacher ratio manageable but, with the rapid growth in the parish, there is a projected need for more classrooms. St. Malachy plans to increase the present two-classrooms-per-grade to three in the new facility. Some athletic activities must be held at rented facilities.

Rob Damler, chairman of the capital campaign committee, has been a parishioner for 35 years. "During that time, I've witnessed the tremendous growth of St. Malachy," he commented. "I've also observed that members often remain there for many years, making a long-term commitment to the church. And I've seen a significant number of young families become involved in church programs, giving help where it is needed."

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

Please visit the new online home for the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign. Our new campaign Web site is <http://www.archindy.org/legacy>.