

CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

November, 2016

Building Committee Members

Brian Anderson,
Principal

Teresa Gillett,
Development Director

Jeff Calvert,
School Parent

Lars Christian,
School Parent

Joe Fellores,
Parishioner

Gene Slagle,
Parishioner

Daniel Stoner,
School Parent

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Bryan Dolejsi,
Parish Priest

Marti Lundberg,
Pastoral Coordinator

A WORD FROM MIKE & CATHLEEN McCARTHY

More than a half-century ago, my parents, my four brothers and I lived in a three bedroom, story-and-a-half house in a farm town in Wisconsin. Because there wasn't a lot of money to spare, when my oldest brother outgrew his birthday gifts, they became mine. My mother removed my brother's favorite team's insignia from his spring jacket (Milwaukee Braves) and replaced them with those of my favorite team (Chicago Cubs). After my brother got a brand new, bigger bicycle, my old man deconstructed the old one, ground it down to the metal, and repainted it, meticulously adding beautiful new darts and other highlights, which he made using masking tape and a single-edge razor blade.

When I received the jacket and bicycle for Christmas and my birthday, I believe I was happier than I would have been if they had been new. Truth was, I'd been waiting patiently, but covetously, for both items since my brother had taken them out of their boxes.

And so it is, to this day, that I don't really like new stuff, preferring to maintain the old stuff. Buying a new car fills me with self-loathing; it represents disloyalty to the old one. Getting a new set of steel radials on a 1994 Ford Escort, on the other hand, makes me giddy, even though no one but me will even notice the difference.

Thus, Phase I of the St. Benedict capital campaign was made-to-order for me. A brand new gymnasium? Maybe later. Beautiful, remodeled bathrooms? You're getting my attention. Copper piping, deep in the walls, where no one can see it, gleaming with understated quality? Cathleen, where's the checkbook?

- MIKE

Our youngest graduated from St. Benedict more than twelve years ago, yet we felt impelled to contribute to the school's capital campaign. Our boys became informed Catholics there and the warmth of the place is such that they both retain friendships they started there. We are grateful.

We also feel our donation is a down payment on a debt. The first classes at the school (1924) almost certainly included the children of veterans of the Great War. Yet those parishioners and parents somehow were selfless and committed enough to construct a school that would serve not just their children but the children of generations they would never know, including ours. Our donation is in recognition of the sacrifices they and the intervening generations made for us and is inspired by the thousands of children, many now gone, whose laughter mellowed the timbers and whose breath permeates the mortar.

- CATHLEEN

CAMPAIGN PRESENTATIONS



More than 150 parish and school families attended one of our first five campaign presentations.

THANK YOU for your time and support!



**STRENGTHEN
AND GROW →
THE PATH TO
OUR FUTURE**

A Campaign for St. Benedict
Church & School Structural
Improvements

ENCORE PRESENTATION

An additional presentation is
schedule

on

Thursday, November 3rd

at 7 PM

In the

School Auditorium

Please RSVP to Teresa Gillett at

206) 633-3375

or e-mail your response to

RSVP@stbens.net

PLEDGE TOTAL CLIMBS TO \$605,000!

As of October 25, the campaign pledge total is \$605,000! THANK YOU to all of our parish and school families who have returned a pledge card! We are more than half-way to our minimum \$1.3 million goal to fund Phases 1-3!

St. Benedict Parish and School

(206) 632-0843

1805 N. 49th St. Seattle, WA 98103

www.stbens.net