



St. Alphonsus Parishioner Q&A's

The following questions were asked at the November 11th, 2022 Informational Meeting on the Love One Another Capital Campaign. Repetitive questions have been eliminated and we have only included questions that relate to the campaign.

ARCHDIOCESE/ST. ALPHONSUS CAMPAIGN

- 1. The statement was made that many parishes have already completed their campaign. Have you been in touch with them and what were some of the projects that they addressed?**

All 188 parishes are taking part in different parish “waves” from summer 2021 to mid-2023. Fathers Kevin and Patrick have had conversations with some of the parishes that have finished their campaign or are in the process of their campaign.

You can check out the parishes that have partaken in the campaign and how they are allocating funds at,

<https://www.loveoneanothermke.org/Campaign/Parish-Campaigns/Parish-Campaigns-2022-08-12T152056160.htm>

- 2. Should we have a separate collection for seminary operating expenses?**

The seminary does have its own fundraising campaigns to assist with its operating expenses. The LOA Capital Campaign will assist in strengthening the seminary as well as other archdiocesan ministries beyond its normal operating budget.

- 3. Has it ever been addressed to have seminarians pay a nominal fee for their education and room and board?**

The seminarians do pay back a nominal fee for their education after they have been ordained to the priesthood. This fee is only a fraction of the overall cost of educating and forming a future priest. This fee is supplemented by the fundraising efforts of the seminary and the support of the Archdiocese.

4. How will the school grant program be administered to strengthen our schools?

Grant programs will be administered by the trust that is set up to oversee the campaign. Dr. Kathleen Cepelka along with a team will work together and oversee the grant applications. They will make recommendations to the trust. We will look at how to do that for rural schools and parish programs within the Archdiocese. Currently, the trust is made up of the archbishop and four lay people, all have expertise in the specific area of reviewing the grant applications.

5. How long is the campaign?

The campaign will be six months, from early January 2023 to the end of June 2023. During this time, all parish households will be asked to make a five year pledge to support the campaign.

6. What percentage of dollars will the archdiocese take from the total raised?

The split is the archdiocese receives 40% of donations and St. Alphonsus receives 60% of donations.

7. What if we do not meet the goals set by the Archdiocese, do we still receive 60%?

Yes, we will receive 60% of whatever we raise.

8. Can we designate our gifts?

If you want to designate your gift to a specific area, you can do that. Or, if you want to donate only to the Archdiocese or only to your parish, you can do that. However, that gets tricky. Someone else's gift has to offset your donation. The intent is not to have donations all designated to their own parish.

9. Who is our campaign team?

Campaign team is still being firmed up, we have until Jan. 1, it's a development still in process and we will communicate who the team is to the parish.

10. Why such a miniscule amount for the poor, only 2%?

Our contributions also go to the Archdiocese, 40%. The Archdiocese also has money going to the poor and those in need (\$13.5 million goal for "Helping Those in Need". 9% of total goal/22.5% of the Archdiocese's "share"). By combining our resources with the rest of the Archdiocese, we can accomplish so much more. St. Alphonsus continues to donate to the poor through our monthly Outreach collections.

11. If a majority are not in favor of sanctuary renovation, are you still going ahead with the renovation?

We are going forward with renovating the sanctuary, if we have the funds. Our parish needs a sanctuary that can accommodate a permanent tabernacle and better provide the space for celebrating the Eucharist. In November of 2021, a tabernacle was added to the sanctuary with the encouragement of Archbishop Jerome ListECKI. The current tabernacle in the church is "on loan" from another parish, and its current setup is only a temporary solution. While it is good our present sanctuary has a tabernacle, the current layout of the sanctuary was not designed for one.

PARISHIONER FEEDBACK/INVOLVEMENT

12. How many parishioners responded to the feedback form?

122 people responded

13. What was the written feedback?

Written feedback was shared in the bulletin insert, our parish website, and an email blast to parishioners. There is also a Love One Another slide on our website that has been updated with new information.

14. How does a parishioner get invited to be involved with the campaign and the decisions?

Please reach out to either Fr. Patrick or Sr. Eileen.

15. During the past many years, the parishioners would be involved in the discussion making with regards to the capital campaign and other major expenditures. What will be the process for engaging the parishioners and committees in the decisions/choices? Will they be involved in the new decision-making progress?

In past capital campaigns at St. Alphonsus projects were identified first by the pastor and leadership groups within the parish. Parishioners were invited to make recommendations and offer feedback, but the final decisions were always made by the pastor and then submitted to the archdiocese for approval.

As we began to prepare for this campaign, initial projects were identified by our Director of Finance and our Director of Facilities in collaboration with our Pastor Fr. Kevin Mcmanaman. Some of the projects proposed in this list were projects that had been previously suggested and identified by parishioners. This list of projects was then adjusted in light of the feedback offered by parishioners.

PRIORITIZATION

16. The FAQ listed a number of other projects. Does the order in the FAQ serve as an indicator of the priority or is that something yet to be determined and if so, who will be involved in determining the priority of these projects?

The first \$25,000 we collect will go to a fund that will allow our parish to help the poor and those in need, but final prioritization of the projects will be determined at a later date.

We are committed to spending only when we have collected the money. Our parish leadership team will assess our parishes needs and determine the priority in which the projects are completed given our parish needs

FINANCIAL

17. What is our current debt?

We do not have a debt. The money raised from Our Parish Our Future Building to Serve paid off the mortgage in November 2019.

18. Do you know how much is being spent on each project?

We have a good idea of what the costs are of each of the projects listed below. We have obtained preliminary cost estimates. As we get closer to the project, we will need to get new estimates to ensure we have the funds to cover it.

- a. Parking lot – \$130,000
- b. School items – \$162,000
- c. Carpeting in Community Room – \$32,000
- d. Carpeting in Gathering Space – \$27,000
- e. T-coil system -\$24,500

Final costs will be communicated once finalized.

19. What if a given priority project goes over the estimate?

If we run out of money or we do not raise our share, then the last project on the list does not get funded. There will be a prioritization process which is yet to be determined.

20. What effort is to be made to get parishioners that don't contribute to do so?

Our weekly envelopes have been flat over the last couple of years, staff has done an excellent job of watching what they spend and are conservative. We are going to meet with the Director of Stewardship at the Archdiocese to get ideas on how to increase our parish giving.

PROJECT SPECIFIC

21. Why is the current sanctuary layout considered tight on space? How often do we need room for concelebrants?

It is ideal to have a sanctuary that can fit all the ministers that assist with the celebration of Mass. This includes priests, deacons and altar servers. Currently, there is no room for altar servers and there is not much space for any additional deacons or priests to sit in the sanctuary. The renovation will allow us to have enough space for servers, deacons and priests.

22. How much is budgeted for a new tabernacle?

Currently, the cost estimate is for the entire sanctuary modifications and updates. Specific costs for the tabernacle are not yet available, this will depend on the size needed for the space and the cost at the time the tabernacle is purchased.

23. Do we need an “unmovable” altar and ambo? Why?

The altar in a Catholic church represents Christ. Because Christ is our rock and foundation, the Code of Canon Law says it is desirable that each church have a fixed altar that is immovable. (Can. 1235 §2). Because there will be a new altar, we will add a matching ambo.

24. Will the carpet be replaced in the sanctuary?

Yes, the hearing loop goes under the carpet, so the carpet would have to be replaced.

25. Is there going to be enough room in the sanctuary for the choir, drums, guitars, bell choir and other musicians?

Yes, the picture is just a preliminary drawing. The campaign is over five years, and right now this is preliminary, details have not been worked out. The vision has to be narrowed and what the needs are as we get closer to implementing the vision.

26. In the bulletin stuffer where you addressed the Frequently Asked Questions included a list of projects. The first project addressed proposed changes to the sanctuary. Could you be more specific and provide greater details about the proposed changes?

Some of the changes to the sanctuary being considered are;

- Updated sound system, including a t-coil system for those with hearing aids
- Larger Sanctuary (altar platform)
- Permanent tabernacle, and matching altar & ambo
- Re-designed choir area
- New Carpeting

27. Why haven't we replaced the dishwasher and steamer since 1964?

This industrial equipment has been working, the steamer is still producing steam, just not as efficiently. We have been fixing the equipment but the parts are no longer made, so parts have been retrofitted.

28. How will new carpeting be more welcoming, how old is it?

The carpeting is 20 years old. Walking through at a normal pace, you don't notice it but it is worn and is stained as well as tears in it. Since these are the first areas that people see upon entering the church, these areas should be clean and maintained for our many parishioners and guests that use it.

PURPOSE

29. There is a sentence in the FAQ that states, "The purpose of the campaign is to strengthen our parish for the future." What are the plans to strengthen our parish and over what timeframe, e.g., the duration of the campaign?

The campaign will allow the parish to fund important projects that will strengthen our mission, allow us to complete important capital improvement projects and enable us to be financially stronger for the future. The campaign will collect funds over a five year period and we will spend the money as we collect the money.

30. Will the renovation of the sanctuary bring more people to the church?

The work of bringing others to Christ is first and foremost a work of the Holy Spirit. It is then our work in relation with the Holy spirit. The mission of the Church is always trying to bring more people to Christ.

With that being said, the beauty of our church is important. Our hope would be that by enhancing the beauty of our sanctuary it will be more inviting and bring people back to church and welcoming to new parishioners.

31. How will changing the sanctuary help our true worship?

Having a sanctuary that visually helps draws our hearts and minds into the realm of the sacred will help make our church a more prayer place.