

Together Toward Tomorrow Campaign Newsletter

Mary Queen of Peace Parish (MQPP)

120 South 34th Street, Billings, MT 59101 406-294-7601

www.maryqueenofpeacebillings.org



Vol. 2:3

Pastor's Letter

This newsletter is so full of good information. My message today will be short. I am seeing excitement growing around this campaign. The Campaign Steering Committee met recently and they are energized and ready to go. The six different Campaign Teams are hard at work with their campaign tasks and generating excitement. It is your turn to do your part. Please take the time to read this newsletter and start to consider how you will respond to my request that you make commitments to our Annual Appeal that supports our ministries and our Capital Appeal that is funding the construction of our new church on South 27th Street. Please keep me and the entire parish in your prayers as we continue to step out in faith to fulfill God's vision for us.



In Christ,

Fr. Jose' Marquez

INVESTING IN MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH (MQPP)

ONE CAMPAIGN – TWO APPEALS

OUR ANNUAL APPEAL IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR PRESENT COMMUNITY

Think about all the different ministries that MQPP provides our members and the services we provide the community. These programs are supported by the regular generous contributions of our parishioners. To better plan our budget, we are asking you to share with us the amount you plan to contribute to our parish over the next 12 months to support our annual operating budget.

OUR CAPITAL APPEAL IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR EMERGING COMMUNITY

To ensure a viable Catholic presence on the Southside, MQPP has launched a two-phase construction project on South 27th Street. Trusting God, we are working very hard to make our plans a reality.

Our Annual Appeal

How Are MQPP's Ministries and Programs Supported?

Each year our parish finance council composes a budget that runs from July 1st to June 30th. The information below represents the current **2016-2017 fiscal year budget**.

General Parish Income - \$389,000

MQPP has multiple streams of income. The parish's largest income stream is the offertory at Mass. Other sources of income include subsidies from the Diocese, our parish fundraising activities/events, church rental income, and the stipends and stole fees collected throughout the fiscal year.

- General Offertory \$255,000 (66%)
- Fundraising Efforts \$34,200 (9%)
- Rent of Holy Rosary and OLG \$37,700 (10%)
- Grants \$36,500 (9%)
- Needy Collection \$9,000 (2%)
- Misc. \$16,600 (4%)

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Campaign Prayer

Loving Father, we the people of Mary Queen of Peace Parish thank You for the blessings bestowed on us. All that we are and all that we have, you have given us. God of the past, present and future, help us open our hearts and minds to your Holy Spirit. We ask for the grace to act as one, for the good of all. St Joseph the carpenter, help us build a stronger faith community, as we work toward our new home. Intercede for us in our desire to become a vibrant parish family. Mary Queen of Peace, protect us from all evil and lead us to do God's will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Our
Together Toward
Tomorrow Campaign
Commitment
Weekend
is May 20-21.

Investing in MQPP Continued from page 1

General Parish Expenses

Operating a parish today is an expensive proposition. Note that parishes generally direct a large majority of their budgets to salaries, benefits and payroll taxes. MQPP devotes only 51% of its budget to these items. Total costs below include the cost of staff involvement in each of the areas (salaries, benefits, and employer taxes).

- Worship & Pastoral Care: \$88,031 (19%)
- Youth & Christian Education: \$20,362 (4%)
- Community Outreach: \$9,000 (2%)
- Catholic School Subsidy: \$43,404 (10%)
- Church Administration: Facilities - \$118,661 (26%)
- Church Administration: Office and Personnel - \$142,409 (31%)
- Diocesan Assessment: \$36,411 (8%)

2016-2017 Budget Shortfall: \$69,278

Each year we project a budget surplus or a shortfall. This requires us to predict as accurately as possible the expected income. Calculating the impact of selling Holy Rosary Church and Our Lady of Guadalupe has been challenging. We will lose rental income but we will also reduce the cost of heating, maintaining, and insuring the two churches. After the sale of the buildings, we will realize a net gain in the budget of approximately \$10,000.

The current budget shortfall is being addressed with parish savings. Efforts in recent years have been made to trim budget expenses wherever possible. Parish staff are asked to provide extra volunteer time each week to avoid hiring additional part-time employees. By conducting an **Annual Appeal**, we anticipate being able to compose a more accurate annual budget for the coming year.

For a more complete explanation of the budget, go to our parish web page at www.MaryQueenOfPeaceBillings.org and click on **Together Toward Tomorrow Campaign** button. You can also contact the parish office for more information.

COMMITMENT TO THE ONE-YEAR ANNUAL APPEAL

Striving to be good stewards and recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God, we encourage parishioners to honor the biblical call to tithe, traditionally understood as 10%. In the spirit of tithing, MQPP encourages each of us to prayerfully consider giving up to five percent (5%) of their income to MQPP's **Annual Appeal**. The other five percent (5%) could go to the **Capital Appeal** and other needs within the broader community.

Knowing this represents a big sacrifice for many, we ask you to consider increasing your current level of giving by just one-half of one percent (1/2%) of household income with the intent of eventually arriving at five percent (5%) over the next few years. If you are new to contributing to MQPP, consider committing just 1/2 of one percent to the parish this first year.



Make this a family decision by talking with your entire family and asking for their involvement.

The impact 1/2 % increase to the Annual Appeal has on your households.

Annual Income	1/2% Annual Contribution Increase	1/2 % Monthly Increase	Eventual Annual Household Goal of 5%
\$10,000	\$50	\$4	\$500
\$20,000	\$100	\$8	\$1,000
\$30,000	\$150	\$13	\$1,500
\$50,000	\$250	\$21	\$2,500
\$75,000	\$375	\$31	\$3,750
\$100,000	\$500	\$42	\$5,000
\$125,000	\$625	\$52	\$6,250

The goal of the Annual Appeal is to have every parish household return their commitment card to the parish so we know that you have considered our requests.

Special Note: Since we are conducting an Annual Appeal each year, we will eliminate the second collections at each of the weekend Masses unless they are designated for a specific purpose like priests' retirement, or for the needy in our community.

CAPITAL APPEAL: INVESTING IN OUR EMERGING COMMUNITY

Mary Queen of Peace Parish is ready to step into the future. The results of the recent campaign feasibility study indicated that seventy-seven percent (77%) of parishioners support moving forward with plans to build our new church. Seventy percent (70%) support conducting the **Capital Appeal** to raise the needed funds. We are currently spending approximately \$150,000 of capital campaign funds to prepare the land on South 27th for construction of our new church.

Phase I of the construction of our parish includes building our church and foyer along with restrooms and parking lots. When funds become available, we will launch **Phase II**, which includes constructing a parish hall, classrooms, a café area, a day chapel, and staff offices.



Investing in MQPP Continued from page 2

CAPITAL APPEAL: WHAT IT ALL MEANS?

We are moving forward and there are several ways this is happening. We are providing a spiritual home for Catholics on the Southside to both accommodate our aging members and to adapt to the growing demographics of the Southside. Secondly, we are intent on building community, especially at the gateway area leading into the heart of Billings.

What is the cost of the plan? (Estimates)

\$3,100,000	Cost of Phase I includes our church, foyer, restrooms and parking lots
<u>\$1,400,000</u>	Cost of Phase II includes our parish hall, classrooms, offices, café area, and a day chapel
\$4,500,000	The total cost of the plan

How will we pay for the Phase I?

\$200,000	Campaign funds less land prep and campaign expenses
\$300,000	Grant requests by office staff*
<u>\$1,250,000</u>	Sale of Holy Rosary Church
\$1,750,000	Available cash

Anticipated money - Estimates

\$335,000	Sale of Guadalupe Church
<u>\$350,000</u>	Sale of Little Flower Church (We can't sell Little Flower Church until new church is completed.)
\$685,000	Total value of two churches

Total money available to parish after the sale of three churches - \$2,435,000

Money still to be raised for Phase I - \$665,000

*Parish staff continues to seek grant funding for our church.

To date, they have secured \$300,000 in outside grants.

Total cost of Phase II is \$1,400,000. The value of Little Flower School is

estimated at \$400,000. (It can't be sold until after **Phase II** is completed because MQPP needs the school for religious education classrooms and offices.)

The goal of our **Annual Appeal** is to have 100% of parishioners return their commitment card. The goal for the **Capital Appeal** is set at **\$275,000**

COMMITMENT TO THE THREE-YEAR CAPITAL APPEAL

Every household is asked to make an equal sacrifice for the **Capital Appeal**. While there is no set amount, we ask that each household prayerfully consider committing three percent (3%) of its annual income each year for the three years of the **Capital Appeal**.

For those on fixed incomes with assets, we ask that you prayerfully consider committing three percent (3%) of your assets, either in a lump-sum gift or spreading it over the three years of the **Capital Appeal**. The chart below will assist you in determining how much to consider.

If you are new to giving to MQPP, we encourage you to prayerfully consider committing \$5 or \$10 a week (the cost of a couple of cups of coffee) or more to the **Capital Appeal** over three years.

3% Capital Appeal Commitment Chart

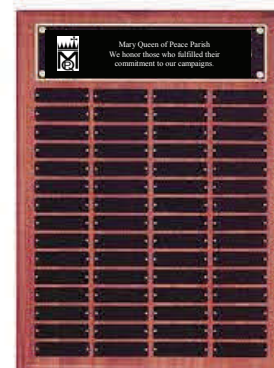
Annual Income	Weekly Pledge	Monthly Pledge	Annual Capital Pledge	Total 3-Year Pledge
\$10,000	\$6	\$25	\$300	\$900
\$20,000	\$12	\$50	\$600	\$1,800
\$30,000	\$17	\$75	\$900	\$2,700
\$50,000	\$29	\$125	\$1,500	\$4,500
\$75,000	\$43	\$188	\$2,250	\$6,750
\$100,000	\$58	\$250	\$3,000	\$9,000
\$125,000	\$72	\$313	\$3,750	\$11,250

Please keep in mind that your contributions to the **Capital Appeal** are in addition to your contributions to the **Annual Appeal**. We can't afford the **Annual Appeal** to be adversely impacted by the **Capital Appeal**. Please do not divert your regular tithing money to the **Capital Appeal**.

In Appreciation:

As a sign of MQPP's appreciation for the sacrifices parishioners are making for the parish, we will erect two plaques in the foyer of our present church. One plaque will list all those who have fulfilled their pledge to the first capital campaign and a second for those who fulfill their commitment to the second capital campaign.

They will be moved to the new church upon its completion.



Sample plaque.



Mary Queen of Peace Parish
120 South 34th Street
Billings, MT 59101

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Campaign Q&A

Q: What will the impact of the Diocesan Bankruptcy have on MQPP?

The recent announcement is disappointing to all of us. It is important to keep the victims and their families in our prayers. We should also pray for the diocese as it tries to correct the injustice done to the victims and at the same time, continue to do all the good things that the Catholic Church does in this part of Montana. As a parish, we will need to be patient as we wait to see the ramifications from bankruptcy. We are optimistic that there will be a resolution acceptable to all parties involved.

Q: Will there be a grotto at our new church site?

Plans are on the way to construct a simple grotto honoring our Mother Mary once the current site preparations are completed. We anticipate the grotto to be completed by the end of the summer and be located at the SE corner of our property on South 27th. The grotto will utilize the statue of Mary that was situated at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. The cost will be a combination of private funds and campaign funds.



MQPP is conducting a Time & Talent Drive in early fall, inviting members to share their gifts of time and talent with the parish. Sharing of time and talent are central to who we are as Catholics.

100%
Your response is now necessary! Our goal is to have a 100% response to our 12-month Annual Appeal... Please, please, we urge you to help us meet our 100% goal by Commitment Weekend, which is May 20, 21st, 2017.
Thank You! Thank You!