



Pray. Serve. Spread the Gospel with Joy.

FURTHERING OUR MISSION

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you feel that St. Thomas More can actually raise the challenging amount of \$1.1M towards this project?

St. Thomas More has always been a very generous community regarding Time, Talent, and Treasure. The Community rose to the occasion in 2010 with gifts totaling \$8M towards our new expanded campus. We feel that raising \$1.1M for the South Campus project is challenging, yet certainly achievable with all parishioners being asked to participate in the campaign. Our parish also met our goal of \$2.2M toward the campaign for Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral. Each year, we exceed our goal for the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Why will Chapel Hill-Carrboro Meals on Wheels use our new South Campus facilities free of charge? Will CHCMOW assist with any fundraising efforts?

Our mission at St. Thomas More is Pray, Serve and Spread the Gospel with Joy. In the spirit of good Stewardship, we feel that we are called upon as part of our mission to partner with various community ministries who are serving those in need. As a charitable organization, CHCMOW would not pay for the use of our facilities on the new South Campus. Chapel Hill-Carrboro Meals on Wheels will assist St. Thomas More in the fundraising process through outreach to their donor base.

The bulletin shows that the parish offertory is not meeting the printed goal. Should that be a concern in embarking on this new effort?

For the past year, we have been recording undesignated gifts under the category of donations—an income line that we had not used almost at all in the past—rather than offertory. This has resulted in the reporting of an offertory figure that is lower than budgeted. However, when the offertory is combined with the amount received in donations, the overall figure for parish income is in line with the budget. We will change the way we report income in the bulletin to better reflect this fact. In 2016-2017, our combined offertory and donations totaled \$2.116M on a budget of \$2.1M. We are confident that support to the parish will remain adequate at this time, and the Finance Council has a strategy to keep this information and the importance of Stewardship of Treasure in front of the community.

How much remains on the mortgage for the buildings that resulted from the ONE Campaign, which was completed in 2010?

Our current balance on the mortgage is \$1.8M, with payments scheduled to run through March of

2024. A new loan would tack to the end of this mortgage and add up to 8 years, depending on the final loan amount, at the same monthly installment of \$27k. It is our hope that the **Furthering our Mission** campaign will go above and beyond the goal of \$1.1M, which will allow for a smaller loan amount and thus no need to extend the loan out as far as is currently planned.

School enrollment is down over the past couple of years. Given that, should we be taking on this new project at this time?

One of the biggest areas of enrollment concern is in our pre-school and kindergarten. One of the main things we hear from parents who choose not to put their child in our pre-school is that they want a full-day program. The establishment of the St. Thomas More Early Childhood Center on the South Campus will afford us the chance to have a full-day program for 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds in five classrooms. We have a great potential to grow our preschool in the new facility. We also plan to offer pre-care and aftercare along with some summer programs.

How will the two campuses be connected via driving and walking?

We do have the potential to connect the two campus via a walking path. We are also working with a civil engineer to provide the best options for egress and ingress and traffic flow.

How will the daily operating costs be covered for the South Campus? Will the use of chapel each day for daily Mass save money as compared to using the church?

We expect that the anticipated revenue from the St. Thomas More Early Childhood Center will cover the operating costs of the South Campus. While it is not possible to put an exact number right now on the cost savings, we can conclude that lighting (the lights in the church are 500W halogen bulbs vs LED's at Aldersgate), heating and cooling will be significantly less for weekday use.

Will this be a campaign in which the whole parish community will participate?

We will seek 100% participation from our entire St. Thomas More Community during a campaign. All parishioners will be asked to contribute with a gift or pledge in order to **Further our Mission**.

Will the planned light rail affect the current campus and the South Campus?

The proposed light rail line runs on the opposite side of Fordham Blvd from the St. Thomas More campus, crosses over at the intersection with Old Mason Farm Road, and passes in front of the Aldersgate property as it approaches Manning Drive. We understand that there is a proposed realignment of Fern Lane that may encroach the Aldersgate property. We will investigate what the current plan is during the investigation period and assess impact and possible actions.

What is the plan for the relocation of the Caring & Sharing Center?

The original plan for a new Outreach Center for St. Thomas More was to build a 1-story building behind the Parish Center. Rebates received from the Cathedral Campaign are being held in a restricted account with this in mind. In more recent times, conversation has taken place about an ecumenical approach to find property in the Chapel Hill or Carrboro downtown areas and operate an outreach center in association with other churches where it is more accessible and serve needs more adequately. There is no decision at this time. Consideration was given to relocating the Caring and Sharing Center to the South Campus, however the decision was made that this would not be feasible.