

Forward in Faith/STM Golden Jubilee Campaigns

FAQ – (as they appeared in Saint Thomas More May-June 2013 bulletins)

The facilities at O'Hara seem fine. Why do we have to build a new high school? Safety is a very real concern in school choice. The O'Hara neighborhood is perceived as unsafe. The new school will be built in Lee's Summit, near the 470 bend. Not only is it perceived to be a safer area, it is one of the largest and fastest growing areas in Missouri.

How will STM parishioners benefit from this school? There are always a few STM 8th grade students that choose to attend O'Hara High School. The new high school will be about a twenty minute drive from STM. For parishioners without high school students there, this is a chance to pay it forward, to help *others* have access to a good, Catholic high school.

The Lee's Summit schools are so good. Will there be students at the new Catholic high school? A lot of research has been done and parents were specifically asked if they would send their children there. It is anticipated there will be 450 students enrolled on opening day. The tuition rates will be close to current O'Hara rates.

Will STM be "taxed" on the money collected for *Forward in Faith*? No. The "tax" or "cathedraticum" that helps pay diocesan overhead operating costs will not be assessed on these funds. ALL of these funds will be distributed for *ministry*, as outlined in your packet.

When will STM see their portion of the money from *Forward in Faith*? Pledged money is sent directly to the diocese. When our 1st "threshold" is reached (about \$420,000), money will be sent to Saint Thomas More for our Golden Jubilee Campaign.

How much money will STM receive from the *Forward in Faith* Campaign? Up to the 1st "threshold" (\$420,000), the diocese keeps 100% of the funds. After the 2nd threshold, up to 60% of our target or about \$2,100,000, STM receives 25% of the money collected. At about 80% of our target, STM receives 75% of the funds.

How was the target determined? The target for each parish is the amount in annual contributions to the operating budget for the fiscal year of 2010-11. In that year, STM received \$3,499,000.

When will STM be able to work on the projects deemed as priorities in our parish survey? About the end of July, we should know how much STM parishioners pledged. Then, it depends on how people choose to contribute toward those pledges. However, there are some small dollar items on the list that we may be able to take care of sooner.

How can I help STM take care of maintenance now? Contributions to the STM Facilities Fund will be used at STM as they are received.