

WAYS TO GIVE

PLEDGES

Pledges are commitments made in good faith (but are not legally binding). We encourage you to consider spanning your gift over three years to maximize the total amount of your contribution. Your commitment can be fulfilled through installments on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. You decide when you want to begin your payments.

CASH

Gifts made by cash/check, online giving, automatic bank withdrawal or credit card will have an immediate impact on the parish's plan. However, we will gratefully accept gifts in various forms!

IRA DISTRIBUTION

For those who are eligible, a distribution from an IRA can be a great way to contribute. When considering this payment plan,

please discuss options with your financial advisor.

MUTUAL FUNDS OR OTHER SECURITIES

A gift of stocks, bonds or mutual funds can have a lasting impact on the parish's future.

EMPLOYER MATCHES

Please check with your employer to see if it offers a match for contributions to a religious nonprofit organization. Please contact the parish office with any questions or documentation your employer may require.

PLANNED GIFTS

A bequest contained in your will is the most common form of planned giving. The parish office can work with your financial advisor to ensure your plans are realized.

For any questions regarding giving, please contact Julie Malecha (651-789-6931) in the parish office.

EDUCATING GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN



Sister Kathleen Spenser, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, grew up a mile from Assumption. The three Spenser children walked to school every day and were frequently passed by children going to school in taxis.

Wanting to increase the school's enrollment, the pastor recruited children from the then-ethnically

segregated neighborhoods to enroll in the school. To ensure their attendance, Fr. Stelmus sent taxis to pick up the children. "They would pass us as we were walking. And, as children do, they'd stick out their tongues at us," Sister Kathleen remembered.

When she was in fifth grade, Sister Kathleen's dog ran away. Four days later, she was in the church choir loft practicing with her class when her dog wandered into the church. "I exclaimed "Oh Sister! It's my dog! I have to go take him home," Sister Kathleen shared. The otherwise stern nun smiled and sent Sister Kathleen on her way. "I just think she must have delighted in seeing a little kid so happy."

Because of that type of kindness and the dedication of the nuns and priests at Assumption, Sister Kathleen decided to join a religious order. But the nuns who were her teachers weren't initially convinced she was meant for the religious life. When her eighth-grade teacher reprimanded Sister Kathleen for misbehaving the boys warned the teacher that the then 13-year-old would someday be a nun.

"Sister Giovanni said, 'If she becomes a nun, I'll eat my shirt,'" said Sister Kathleen, who joined the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1956. "At my 25th anniversary, Sister Giovanni showed up with a cake shaped like a shirt."

During her career, Sister Kathleen served as director of MORE, a Multicultural Empowerment Education Center for immigrants and refugees on St. Paul's north side. She traces her appreciation and respect for different cultures to her time at the school. And it's something, she said, she wouldn't trade. Sister Kathleen still attends Mass at Assumption today.



A CAMPUS CONNECTING GENERATIONS

October 7, 2022

Dear Parishioners & Friends –

This past May, you heard about two significant projects that will help build upon generations of blessings at Assumption in order to become an even stronger parish. As a part of that communication, people were given an opportunity to provide input through a parish survey. Feedback indicated strong support for our project plans, which include improved parking and restoring our historic school building. Both these projects will help us remain a positive, vital, and vibrant parish presence and spiritual home in downtown Saint Paul.

We have included some feedback from the survey and additional information about plans for these two exciting parish opportunities in these next few pages. After much consideration, we concluded that a capital campaign is the best way to invite parishioners and others to participate in these important projects. Please prayerfully consider if you can financially support our efforts.

Pledges can be made for a one-time donation or spread out over three years. For your convenience, a pledge card and return envelope are included with this mailing. You can return the pledge card by mail or bring it to Mass and put it in the collection. It would be helpful to hear from you **by the weekend of October 22-23**. Call the parish office (651-224-7536) or visit the parish website at www.assumptionsp.org for more information. Help us build a campus that will connect past, current and future generations.

God Bless...

Fr. Paul Treacy
Pastor



SECURE AND IMPROVE PARKING FOR THE MASSES

At Assumption, the Saturday and Sunday experience begins and ends in the parking lot. However, we have learned that individuals and families who enjoy coming to Assumption for Mass may go elsewhere if they make the trip only to find there is not enough parking. For this reason, we want to increase and improve our parking – for not just the weekend, but also for holidays, funerals, weddings, and more.

To accomplish that, the plan is to purchase the adjacent parking lot on the corner of Exchange and St. Peter Streets. The purchase will not only provide additional parking but is also a prudent investment for the campus and was strongly supported in the survey. We are happy to report we have closed on the purchase of the lot, but we know there is more to be done than acquiring the parking lot alone.

The improvements to the east side of our campus also include demolishing the retail building so that more parking can be added. The entire lot will be contiguous, lovely, and more secure than today. A positive parking experience is an essential part of the campus plan. This will complement the experience of quality liturgies and other events so that as individuals and families come and go, they do so with a strong sense of community and mission.

Questions from the survey regarding parking:

1. Will the lot continue to generate revenue for the parish? Yes. While the income generating potential is not the primary reason for its purchase, we plan on continuing to sell spaces during the week and for events. The revenue can go toward not only the lot's maintenance and improvement, but also help support other ministries of Assumption.

PROJECT COSTS

Estimated Costs:	Building Demolition & Parking Lot Restoring the Historic School building Total Estimated Cost	\$2,255,000 \$3,675,000 \$5,930,000
Initial donor and parish commitments:		\$2,000,000
Through a Capital Campaign we are hoping to raise:		\$4,000,000

2. What about security? We are continually evaluating security to make sure everyone who comes to our campus feels safe. Having the entire block will help. Some wonder about a fence, and while a fence around the entire block is not a part of the current plans, we will consider it as an option.



An illustration of the east side of the campus with additional parking.

RESTORING AND REACTIVATING OUR HISTORIC SCHOOL BUILDING

The most important part of any parish community is its' worship experience. It is core to our mission as a parish to draw the faithful to Christ through a positive experience at Mass. We are blessed with a full and vibrant Mass, and over 90 percent of survey participants indicated that the experience at Mass is a top reason for coming to Assumption.

Also core to any parish are those activities and ministries which help individuals and families deepen their faith and grow in a sense of community and mission. As we evaluated our current needs, we easily concluded there was a need for more usable space. The evaluation included consultation and planning sessions in 2021 and the findings were supported by those who participated in the recent Archdiocesan Synod.

Here are some of the reasons for a restored and reactivated school building:

Faith Formation for families. A strong religious education program helps any parish attract and retain families. For years, our faith formation programs serving hundreds of our youth, have been located at St. Mary's Catholic Church nearby in Lowertown. Bringing these programs to campus is good for everyone, especially since our use of the space at St. Mary's ends after the 2022-2023 program year. The restored building will provide ample space for our faith formation and confirmation programs and will help connect families more strongly to the parish.

Adult formation and fellowship possibilities. Our 2021 planning sessions and the Synod confirmed a desire for more formation and fellowship opportunities at Assumption. As other parishes have learned, we can enjoy the benefits of offerings in the areas of adult faith formation and small group opportunities. A renovated space also has great opportunities for retreats and other initiatives which can introduce others around the Archdiocese to Assumption. It is all part of the plan to remain a strong and vibrant parish.

Pastoral encounters. Natural settings and events in parish life provide opportunities for pastoral encounters. However, accessibility can be a challenge for some visiting our parish office and grounds. Having an accessible building will help us meet and serve families and individuals in a setting that respects the dignity of everyone.

Protecting a historic treasure for Assumption and St. Paul. Some have wondered about the value of restoring an old building rather than pursuing new construction. Even if we did not improve the inside to make it usable space, we would still have to spend between \$1-1.5 million to prevent the historic school from deteriorating further.

With the planned restoration, we will shore up this building and will have sufficient space to meet our needs for many years to come. Reactivating the use of this building so that it becomes a more integral part of the parish campus is also a great way to connect past generations to current and future generations. Additionally, as we learned from the incredible restoration of the Church completed in 2017, we have a responsibility for the upkeep of our historic buildings.

Questions from the survey regarding the school restoration:

1. Have we explored grants and other ways to fund these improvements? Over the last few years, we have explored other options for funding a restoration as this building is on the National Historic Register. We solicited help in finding grants and other funding options. Since the pandemic, there are not many opportunities which could help us, but we will continue to look for and consider other funding options.
2. Would not a new building better meet our needs? We evaluated the cost of something new versus restoring this building, and we concluded that the restoration with modern amenities would provide the greatest value. New construction could cost between \$6-8 million dollars.



An architect's rendering of the east entrance to the restored school building.