

9/4/2022: In 2016 the Archdiocese of Hartford (AOH) in conjunction with its 175th Anniversary pursued the possibility of a capital campaign that would benefit of the AOH as well as the individual parishes of the Archdiocese. In anticipation of such a capital campaign the AOH established a separate legal entity that would run the campaign and fully administer it as well as provide for the long-term needs of the AOH. To do so a large group of over 40 dedicated men and women were recruited to establish and fully oversee what was named the Hartford Bishops' Foundation (HBF). The HBF is dedicated to advancing the mission of the AOH by supporting the Church's mission within the wider context of the spiritual, social, and material well-being of everyone in the Hartford, Litchfield and New Haven counties. The HBF is separately incorporated and has its own lay Board of Directors and as such is meant to assure donors that their giving will only go to the stated purposes of the HBF and not ordinary expenses of the AOH and certainly not any legal or settlement costs arising from the sexual abuse crisis. The HBF titled the capital campaign Forward with Faith (FWF) and assumed all of the costs of implementing the campaign. On the Archdiocesan level, FWF has four areas that it is trying to influence long term in the archdiocese. Namely, help fortify vibrant parishes, assist in faith formation endeavors both in Religious Education programs and Catholic schools, to be as Pope Francis says, "real champions in service to others" and creating a fund for Innovation and Emerging Opportunities in individual parishes and throughout the Archdiocese. Each parish also had to establish its own local case statement for how it would use its funds. Each parish was assigned a goal based upon its historical giving. The goal for St. Paul's is \$975,000. For every dollar raised in this campaign up to the goal 50% will come back to the parish. For every dollar raised above this goal 80% will come back to the parish. Upon assessing the needs of the parish our local campaign committee suggested that as a parish we should shoot for \$1.2 million. The flyer in the bulletin this week outlines some of our local needs that we will try to address through this campaign. You be given more information on these needs in the coming weeks.



Here at St. Paul's, we have been introducing the campaign to parishioners in phases. In July and August our local committee, whose names appear on the enclosed flyer, hosted five information gatherings which were well attended. I am so grateful for all of their time and efforts especially during the summer! To kickoff this next phase of the campaign here at St. Paul's Archbishop Blair will celebrate the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday, September 10th. This will be followed by a reception in the parish hall for all parishioners at which time the Archbishop and others will explain more about the HBF as well how the parish plans on using its

portion of the money that is being raised. We are off to a good start! We have already received more than \$430,000 in pledges. I hope that you will come to the presentation in the Parish Hall on Saturday and greet Archbishop Blair and learn more about the campaign and its benefits to the parish. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions and speak with the Committee members.

FWF Committee Members:

Mark & Maura Chasse, Tom & Marlene Drzata, Nancy DePalma, Diane Funk, Ed & Gloria Janik, Don Lombardo, Lynn Misteri, Ryan & Letty Morrisey, John & Janet Roman, Ewa & Corey Whiteside.

9/11/2022: Last week I began introducing to the entire parish the Forward With Faith (FWF) Capital Campaign. Begun in 2018, stymied a bit by COVID-19, FWF is being conducted for the Archdiocese of Hartford and individual parishes, including St. Paul's, by the Hartford Bishops' Foundation (HBF). The HBF is separately incorporated and has its own lay Board of Directors and as such is meant to assure donors that their giving will only go to the stated purposes of the HBF and not ordinary expenses of the AOH and certainly not any legal or settlement costs arising from the sexual abuse crisis. Parishes throughout the Archdiocese are partnering in this campaign and will share at least 50% of the income raised in each parish while sharing in none of the costs of running the campaign. I say at least 50% because if we exceed our goal of \$975,000, we will then receive 80% of all funds raised above the goal. In last week's column I spoke briefly about the four areas that the HBF is going to use the funds for, and there was an insert that talked about how the parish will use its portion of the funds. Beginning this week, and continuing for the next three, I hope to share more about how the HBF and the parish plan to use the funds raised. One of the HBF's four areas of funding is Faith Formation and Catholic Education. I would like to mention just two ways that funds from the campaign will be used in this area: 1. Enhance the teaching and learning environment in Catholic schools by funding capital improvements, technology upgrades, and STREAM integration; 2. Support parish faith formation ministries and programs by providing grants for innovative programs. Both St. Paul Parish and St. Paul School have already received two modest grants in this area totaling about \$10,000. One was submitted by our DRE, Robin Veronesi, at the height of the pandemic to assist with home study and the other by the school to assist in covering extra COVID costs in the school as well as for a SMART TV. I am very pleased that Archbishop Blair is with us this weekend to celebrate the 4:00 p.m. Mass and then spend some time greeting parishioners in the Parish Hall while also sharing his vision for this campaign. Since July the campaign has been being introduced to parishioners during small receptions in the Parish Hall. Thus far

we have received pledges in excess of \$440,000. So we are off to a good start! I hope you will take the time to learn more about these efforts and how they will address some of our local needs. I am most grateful to all of the Campaign Committee members who have been working most of the summer to ensure our success. In these coming weeks I will share with you their thoughts on why they are supporting this campaign beginning today with Ewa and Corey Whiteside.

“After meeting with Fr. Joe and doing our own due diligence to learn about the Forward with Faith campaign, Corey and I chose to help with the committee as well as provide financial support. We believe that a home parish campaign that also benefits other parishes through an independent lay-run entity is a worthy cause. It is a support for our Catholic faith in other communities and parishes that are not as fortunate as our St. Paul’s community of financial strength. We believe that the four areas of need identified by the campaign are right for our time, especially a targeted support for outreach to young adult families and disengaged laity, and we ask that each of you prayerfully consider contributing to this important effort.”

In the near future all parishioners will receive a mailing asking for your support. Please give the request your prayerful consideration and then decide how you might be able to assist the campaign. The campaign will reach its apex during the 2nd and 3rd weekends of October. I hope you read last weekend’s bulletin and the insert. If not, go to the website or take one of the flyers this weekend. I will share more about our parish needs next week.

9/18/2022: This is my third installment concerning the Forward With Faith (FWF) Capital Campaign that is being conducted by the Hartford Bishops’ Foundation (HBF) for the Archdiocese and its parishes. During the course of the campaign, which was begun in 2018, all parishes in the Archdiocese are required to participate. Every parish also directly benefits because at least 50% of all funds donated come back to the parish. If we exceed our goal of \$975,000 then we will receive 80% of all funds raised above the goal. Back in the spring I approached a number of parishioners to serve on our campaign committee. I am very grateful for their willingness to serve. Serving on the committee are: Mark & Maura Chasse, Tom & Marlene Drzata, Nancy DePalma, Diane Funk, Ed & Gloria Janik, Don Lombardo, Lynn Misteri, Ryan & Letty Morrissey, John & Janet Roman, and Ewa & Corey Whiteside. The first thing they were asked to do was to review the plans that had been developed internally for how the parish would use its portion of the funds. After presenting the list of potential projects they narrowed the scope, but also thought that given our local needs we should aim for a higher local goal. As a result, the committee recommended that we set the parish goal

at \$1,200,000. Our local FWF committee have all been very generous in many ways. They have been attending bi-weekly meetings since May, contacting parishioners, and they have hosted five receptions. Their generosity also includes their financial support as well. Their efforts have resulted in over \$450,000 in pledges already. All pledges can be paid over a five (5) year period. In the next week or so every parishioner will receive a mailing asking for your participation in this campaign. Then on the weekend of October 8/9 members of the Campaign Committee will speak at the Masses and invite you to participate by making a pledge payable over five years. The following weekend (October 15/16) will be Commitment Weekend when you will be asked to return the pledge card that you received in the mail. In the bulletin insert two weeks ago was an outline of how the parish would make use of the funds here in the parish. Some additional flyers are near the weekly bulletins. Allow me to speak to one of these areas this week. As a parish we have a number of programs and services that are directed to different constituencies of the parish including our more senior members and our youth. This campaign would like to direct more attention and resources to our young adults and young families. This age group is under-represented in our weekly congregation. We envision developing programs that more specifically reach out and serve this element of our parish and will seek to engage them more in the life of the parish. The future vitality of our parish is dependent on our success in this area. Next week I will touch upon some of the other needs of the parish that your support of the campaign would help us address. Read why committee members decided to support the campaign.

“As we considered all aspects of the Forward with Faith Capital Campaign, we came to understand the opportunity it affords us to not only help fund some of the most critical needs here at St. Paul Parish but also to support the ongoing and long-term needs of the Archdiocese, its parishes and its related institutions. Like many, we have charities to which we regularly donate. For us, the Campaign has forced us to look beyond those good causes, to be cognizant that there are real needs within the Parishes and organizations of the Archdiocese that should also be of concern to us. Through this Campaign, we can make a contribution in a meaningful way to help the faith communities of both our Parish and the Archdiocese of Hartford.” -Maura and Mark Chasse

“We contributed to the FWF campaign because it not only supports the needs of our parish, but also needs throughout the Archdiocese. Helping others is part of our Catholic faith. Keeping Catholic traditions strong in the Archdiocese will benefit us all.” -Tom and Marlene Drzata

9/25/2022: This is my fourth installment concerning the Forward With Faith (FWF) Capital Campaign that is being conducted by the Hartford Bishops' Foundation (HBF) for the Archdiocese and its parishes. During the course of the campaign, which was begun in 2018, all parishes in the Archdiocese are required to

participate. Every parish directly benefits because at least 50% of all funds donated come back to the parish. If we exceed our goal of \$975,000 then we will receive 80% of all funds raised above the goal. In previous columns I have discussed how the HBF plans to use its portion of the funds in support of long term needs for the Archdiocese and how parishes in will be able to apply for grants from those funds. Last week I detailed one our parish's plans for our portion of the funds by developing an outreach to young adults and young families to engage them or re-engage them in the life of the parish. This week I would like to address two other local uses of the funds. We have proposals in hand to upgrade both the sound system at St. Paul's as well as our live streaming capabilities. I receive input from time to time from parishioners that the sound system needs improvement. The size and configuration of the church brings with it some challenges that the upgrade will address. When COVID began we were ahead of the curve with our live-streaming capabilities compared to other parishes. This use of technology was crucial in staying in contact with all of you during those months when in-person services were not allowed. This capability is always a valuable outreach to parishioners who can no longer attend Mass because of age or sickness, but also those who are unable to attend for a week or two because they are sick or taking care of someone who is ill. As technology constantly improves, we have fallen back a bit in this area and too often there are problems with the broadcasts. This capability is a great consolation and joy for many when they cannot attend a funeral or wedding or baptism. If you have not already received in the mail information on the FWF Campaign, you will shortly, and I will be asking for your participation in this campaign. Very generously parishioners have already pledged more than \$450,000. Next week I will address the work that we would like to do in the Parish Center. As I have been doing, I share some more comments from the Committee members about why they agreed to serve on the committee and support the campaign financially.

"My husband and I wholeheartedly supported the Forward with Faith Campaign because it's important, not only for the needs of our own parish family, but to look further and support the needs of other communities and organizations within the Archdiocese. The real needs of our parish, put forth by our Forward With Faith Committee, are important to the future of the St. Paul community. It is our hope that all parish families will prayerfully consider joining us in support of this campaign, so we can have the resources to move forward with those very important needs." -Diane & Bill Funk

"The Forward With Faith Campaign is an opportunity to not only support our Parish but others that are in need. As a Catholic I believe that it is important to always help others and this Campaign is a perfect opportunity. I am blessed everyday to be a part of this beautiful Parish and given the opportunity to serve on this committee and support it financially is a privilege. We need to continue to look to the future for all of those that follow us and to ensure our Parish stays vibrant and our faith is always alive. Pray on your decision in the coming weeks to support this important campaign."
-Lynn Misteri

10/2/2022: This is my fifth installment concerning the Forward With Faith (FWF) Capital Campaign that is being conducted by the Hartford Bishops' Foundation (HBF) for the Archdiocese and its parishes. Every parish directly benefits because at least 50% of all funds donated come back to the parish. If we exceed our goal of \$975,000 then we will receive 80% of all funds raised above the goal. You should have received in the mail information on the FWF Campaign. It contained a letter from me with an ask amount that I will discuss below. The mailing also contained a Case for Support flyer that on one side outlined how the HBF will make use of the funds for the Archdiocese and on the other side how St. Paul Parish plans to use its portion of your donations. Today I continue briefly discussing how our parish will use these funds; this week concentrating on the Parish Center. When built in 1950 the current Parish Center (PC) served as a convent. If any of those Sisters were still around it would not take too much for them to remember where everything was. The systems in the building are the originals. All of the electrical and HVAC systems need updating. Fuses are still used in this building instead of circuit breakers. For as large of a parish and overall campus we have our meeting space is extremely limited. In the PC there is just one room, the front parlor, that is suitable to meet with couples in preparation for their wedding, or family members when planning a funeral, or when meeting with someone one on one for counseling or spiritual direction. The overall meeting space for the many parish organizations and ministries is very limited. The most challenging issue with the building is the one most needed, accessibility. When meeting with a parishioner recently asking for her support of this campaign she said, 'oh yea I cannot get in there [the Parish Center] anymore so I have others go there for me'. If a person with mobility issues came into the building, they could not use a lavatory since there is none on the first floor. Another parishioner, having attended one of the FWF receptions, was in the PC a little while later and commented to me, "I see what you were talking about!" We have an architect's drawings for an entire renovation of the building. Its costs are well beyond the scope of this campaign, but your support of this campaign will help us begin to make this building truly a Parish Center and not an old convent being used as one. Very generously parishioners have already pledged more than \$450,000. In the mailing that you received my letter contained an ask amount. You might wonder how that figure was determined. The HBF has engaged a fund-raising company, Changing Our World, to run the campaign. The specific ask amount was developed by them and is based on their review of your ordinary giving to the parish. The ask amount is a request for you to consider, and in many cases, would require sacrifice on your part to make that gift. Only you can determine if that is something that you can do. Your prayerful consideration is all that I ask of you. Our needs are real and do require the support of many parishioners. This campaign has already had to get through COVID and now everyone is experiencing the very real

effects of decades high inflation. This is a five year campaign and pledges are payable over that time period. If you would like to participate but hesitate because of the current financial crunch you can delay making your first payment on your pledge. Comments from members of our FWF Campaign Leadership team are posted below, expressing why they agreed not only to serve on the committee, but to also support the campaign financially. You will hear more from them at the Masses next weekend. I ask you to continue to review the material and begin to prayerfully consider how you can support FWF. Please know that whatever amount you might pledge will be most appreciated.

"We are supporting the Forward with Faith Campaign to help assure the future success of St. Paul Parish and the Archdiocese of Hartford. The funds raised will be available for the needs of future generations of Catholics in our Parish and Archdiocese." -John and Janet Roman

"Although we are very blessed here at St. Paul Parish, we see signs of struggle in parishes throughout the Archdiocese to continue to minister to the needs of its people.

We see the Forward with Faith Campaign as a positive step that looks to the future in order to ensure our diocese will be able to financially aid parishes with the means to build programs for our youth, young adults, seniors, the sick, the homeless—programs for spiritual growth, family life, support for the troubled, the hungry, and on and on—whatever the needs of the parish. We see where we all benefit from the Campaign, and we wanted to be a part of that." -Gloria and Ed Janik

10/9/2022: For a number of weeks, I have been sharing with you information about the Forward With Faith (FWF) Capital Campaign that is being conducted by the Hartford Bishops' Foundation (HBF) for the benefit of the Archdiocese of Hartford and all of its parishes. St. Paul's will share at least 50% of the income raised in each parish while absorbing none of the costs of conducting the campaign. I say at least 50% because if we exceed our goal of \$975,000, we will then receive 80% of all funds raised above the goal. I hope these weekly updates have given you a good idea of how both the Archdiocese and our own parish will make good use of these funds. The insert in the mailing you received also summarized the needs of the parish that will be addressed through your donations. This weekend members of the FWF Campaign Committee will be speaking about the campaign, its benefits to the parish, and how you can help St. Paul address our needs while also supporting the greater needs of the Archdiocese. Our success in this campaign will require the support of many parishioners and I hope that you can see yourself in that group of parishioners. In the mailing that you received a couple weeks ago my letter contained an ask amount which would act as a pledge payable over five (5) years. I discussed last week how the company employed by the HBF had

arrived at that figure. In setting that amount it gives you an idea for your gift. Pledging allows each of us the opportunity to make a sacrificial gift that will help to shape the Church for future generations of Catholic families in our community. Only you can determine if that ask amount is something that you can do. I ask for your and your prayerful consideration. I and all of your fellow parishioners will be grateful for whatever you can do to help us meet some of our current needs. Thank you to all who have already made pledges totaling more than \$460,000 or about 47% of our goal. Your gift to the Forward with Faith Campaign is greatly appreciated!

“We contributed to the Forward with Faith Campaign because we see a real need to support our parish and the many communities within the Archdiocese of Hartford. We encourage all parishioners to prayerfully consider making a pledge. All contributions, when added together, will help make a significant impact on the future and strength of Saint Paul Parish.” -Ryan and Letty Morrissey

*“My experience with the Forward with Faith campaign has been enlightening as to yet another way to support our Catholic faith in Berlin and also the greater Hartford community through a charitable financial gift. You may ask why should I provide a financial gift that is not 100% utilized at our St Paul's & Sacred Heart churches respectfully, I initially struggled with that thought and prayed to God for his guidance and came to realize we are all one family with GOD and need to support our brothers and sisters wherever they might reside. If you can find a way to provide a financial gift of any amount it will be used for the growth of our Catholic community for our children and families into the future. Thanks for taking the time to read my thoughts on this topic. God Bless.”
- Don Lombardo*