

A BACKGROUND STATEMENT FOR



The Holy Mothers Collaborative

ABOUT HOLY MOTHERS

Since our establishment as a collaborative in 2014, the Holy Mothers Collaborative has become an anchor for a growing, vibrant Catholic community. From our humble beginnings, our parishes have flourished growing to serve over 5,000 families. As a collaborative, we strive to live out our mission to **help ourselves and our communities to visibly live out discipleship through the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church.**

We have a vibrant community of faith with numerous ministries engaged to educate, serve, and grow our parish community to discover, follow, worship, and share Jesus. Our LifeTeen program currently serves the spiritual needs of more than 150 teens. Through this valuable partnership, we work in harmony to create a learning environment focused on spiritual growth of our youth at a critical moment in their lives.

As friends and followers of Jesus, we have the opportunity to meet the demands of the future and with the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can be a faith-filled people on a life-giving mission from God.

1907

St. Mary of the Sacred Heart parish established.

1926

St. Mary's church constructed in its current location on Hanover Street.

1950

St. Helen Mother of Emperor Constantine parish established, and church constructed in its present location on Washington Street.

2014

Fr. Chris Hickey named Pastor for both parishes.

2014

St. Mary's and St. Helen's form partnership, and the Holy Mothers Collaborative is officially established.

2016

With sustained parishioner growth and regularly overflowing Masses, a needs assessment identified the need for larger worship space.

2017

Parish surveys showed overwhelming support for building a new church.

2017

Fundraising feasibility study indicated broad support for immediate capital campaign.

2018

\$6.2 million raised in Phase I of campaign.

2020

Agreement reached to purchase vacant land in Hanover to serve as site of new church.

2021

St. Thecla to merge with St. Mary's and St. Helen's to form a new parish.

OUR SHARED VISION

The Holy Mothers Collaborative is at a defining moment in our history. Since our partnership began in 2014, our parishes have doubled in size and participation in Mass and parish activities has grown to levels few Catholic churches in the Northeast have experienced in the 21st century. Our youth and young adult participation rates are the highest in the Archdiocese, and we continue to welcome and engage new parishioners. To continue meeting the demands of the present and future, we are asking for your visionary investment to address the second stage of our plans to advance funding for the construction of a new church. The following pages outline the latest updates and our revised plans to secure funding, purchase land, merge parishes, and build a beautiful new church for our amazing faith community.

CAMPAIGN PHASE I

In 2018, The Holy Mothers Collaborative conducted the first phase of our capital campaign, which provided seed funding for the project and enabled us to proceed with identifying and coming to an agreement on purchasing the property for our new church.

Phase I of the campaign raised more than \$6.2 million in pledges for the project, of which more than \$2.5 million has already been received. This wonderful total was made possible through the generosity of 540 donors – about 10% of our membership.

CONTINUED GROWTH

Our churches had long since reached their capacity prior to the first phase of the campaign, and we have continued to grow since the completion of our 2018 campaign. Over these past two years, several hundred new families have joined the Collaborative and in 2021, St. Thecla's will be joining St. Mary's and St. Helen's to form a newly-merged parish. At 7,500 parishioners, the new parish will likely be the largest in the Archdiocese of Boston.

FUNDING PLAN

The original plans for building a unified church considered the need for extraordinary philanthropic support, property sales, and debt to fund a \$20 million project. Since that time, engineering and architectural studies have been refined based on our preferred location, which has resulted in an increased construction estimate of \$25 million. Given the complexities involved, we anticipate this number to rise even more. As such, our revised funding plan involves the following:



PHILANTHROPY

Capital Campaigns

\$20,000,000



FINANCING

Long-term Mortgage

\$2,000,000



PROPERTY

Churches and Land

\$5,000,000

FUNDING PRIORITIES

PROPERTY ACQUISITION

The collaborative has reached an agreement to purchase land in Hanover for \$2 million. This undeveloped land is in a prime location for a campus of the size we need. Several property options have been explored and discussed since 2018. The original plans had budgeted \$1 million for land acquisition with the hopes that some or most of the property might be donated. Given the size of the property we will be getting and the potential that the sellers could have sold it to developers instead, we view this increase in costs as necessary and fair.

PARKING

The most common complaint we get from parishioners, visitors, and neighbors is our lack of sufficient parking. Driving patterns have changed drastically since both churches were built and our worship sites are now land locked with little potential for growth due to abutting neighbors and undevelopable land. Longtime parishioners know to arrive early in order to secure a parking spot, those who live close to the church will walk, while others take the inadvisable route of parking on the street or in neighborhoods. In building a church, it is essential we prepare for the realities of transportation and that we add sufficient parking for all – including a generous number of accessible spots.

HALL, CLASSROOMS & OFFICES

A new parish commons building will be attached to the church, adding much-needed space for our many parish and community activities. Our new hall will be able to accommodate 500 people and a teen center would handle an additional 150, much more than our current spaces allow. In addition to the larger, more efficient gathering spaces, families will no longer need to go outside to reach the hall, classrooms and offices, strengthening our security and reducing the dangers of walking through inclement weather. Offices will feature an open concept that will allow for improved collaboration and connectedness among personnel. Since 2014, our parishes have more than doubled in size, and this additional space will allow us to meet the needs of our growing parish and community.

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

A new church, the cornerstone of our project, is our greatest need. With seating for 1200 and a smaller 150-seat side chapel for more intimate occasions, our new worship spaces will meet the daily and weekly needs of our growing community while also allowing us to host larger gatherings in a way that our present churches do not. In addition to standing-room-only weekend Masses, large Masses at Christmas, Easter and certain weddings and funerals have also been challenging for St. Mary's and St. Helen's in recent years.

RECTORY

A rectory capable of housing our assigned clergy, priests in residence, senior priests, and visiting priests, would ensure the parish could be fully supported at all times, while also filling a critical need for clergy housing in the South Shore at a time when priests are being encouraged to live in community and when more parishes are converting residences for common use.



YOUR ROLE

The Holy Mothers Collaborative is ready to take the next step in achieving our goals for building a new church. With an agreement in place to purchase land for our new home, we are partnering with CCS Fundraising, a nonprofit fundraising consulting firm with 70 years of experience helping faith communities to help us plan for and meet our goals. A vital step in their work will be to gather input, advice, and feedback from parishioners on the timing, scope, leadership, and messaging for this critical next phase of the campaign. Your candid input will be critical in shaping the strongest possible plan of action. Thank you for sharing your time and thoughts as part of this planning process.

GENERATING \$20 MILLION + IN PHILANTHROPY

The campaign’s first phase raised more than \$6 million from 10% of parishioners. The chart below illustrates how growing participation to 35% of parishioners and maintaining an average five-year pledge size of \$8,700, could make the goal attainable.

Source	# of Gifts	% of Parish	Gifts Generated	Average Pledge Amt
Phase I Pledges (already secured)	540	10%	\$6,000,000+	\$11,200
New Cornerstone Pledges	2	.01%	\$5,000,000	\$2,500,000
New Leadership Pledges	15	.02%	\$1,500,000	\$100,000 (\$20,000/year)
New Major Gift Pledges	50	1%	\$1,500,000	\$30,000 (\$6,000/year)
New Advance Gift Pledges	200	2.5%	\$2,000,000	\$10,000 (\$2,000/year)
New All-Parish Phase Pledges	1,500+	20%	\$4,000,000	\$2,500 (\$500/year)
	2,300+	~35%	\$20,000,000+	\$8,700

Is 35% participation realistic?

Is an \$8,700 average five-year pledge likely?

Is building a new church worthy of being a top philanthropic priority?

Will having the property lined up inspire greater generosity from previous donors?