



Frequently Asked Questions



Saint Catherine of Sweden Parish
Allison Park, PA

What will happen to the HHH Campaign and the Building Fund as a result of this campaign?

Contributions to the “***Heritage, Hospitality and Hope***” (HHH) campaign have been exempt from Parish Share Assessment over the last four years but the five year window for this exception will expire in June 2014. Therefore, HHH will be replaced by ***Bringing Christ’s Love Alive!***

The analysis and guidance from our Parish Finance Council revealed the most prudent approach to addressing our parish debt, as well as the projects listed above, was to partner with Bishop Zubik and participate in a “combined campaign.” Together, through this campaign, we have the opportunity to significantly reduce our mortgage and ensure our parish is put on the most secure financial footing for the future.

How will this campaign impact our weekly offertory at our Parish?

Parishioners are encouraged to sustain their regular offertory contributions throughout the pledge redemption cycle and, historically, parish offertories are not substantially impacted in a negative way. In fact, it is possible that the offertory may increase as a result of a successful capital campaign as parishioners become more aware of the Church’s financial priorities.

How do I know that my donation to this campaign will go towards the components outlined in the case for support?

St. Catherine of Sweden and the Diocese of Pittsburgh are going to great lengths to ensure that the funds raised through the campaign ***BRINGING CHRIST’S LOVE ALIVE!*** will be used exclusively for the components outlined in the campaign’s case for support. A separate 501(c) 3 Charitable Corporation entitled *Our Campaign for The Church Alive! Inc.* has been established to ensure this.

Why do you think our family can give a gift at this level?

No intrusive research of your financial wherewithal was conducted, and request amounts are based primarily upon your past generosity and also the financial needs of the Parish. You are simply being asked to consider a gift at a specific level and it is our hope that you give this request some thought and prayer.

Our family’s financial situation doesn’t allow us to consider a pledge at the level requested.

We really do not know much about your family’s financial situation, but we encourage you to consider a pledge to this campaign that best complements your propensity for sacrificial giving.

Gifts to this campaign ought to be equal in sacrifice, not necessarily equal in dollar amount and it is our hope that your giving reflects this measure. Perhaps it is more appropriate for your family to consider a gift on another level. We recognize that your financial situation is unique, and, ultimately, your thoughtful decision will be most appropriate. This campaign is monumental in our Church’s history, and we hope your commitment will mirror that.

Why am I asked to sign a pledge card?

Parishioners are asked to sign a pledge card so that the gift may be appropriately acknowledged and documented, enabling the Diocese to send payment reminders. Additionally, it will also help our Parish plan our finances as pledge payments are received. ***A pledge is not a legally binding document and can be altered at any time.***

Can I pay a portion or my entire pledge with stock?

Yes. Stock transfer forms are provided to donors who request them. St. Catherine of Sweden will sell a gift of stock immediately. The value of the gift is determined at the time of transfer. For more information regarding how to make a payment in stock, please contact Carl Cervi, our Campaign Director, at the parish.

Should I make an initial payment?

Making an initial payment depends on a person's preference and personal situation. The parish would prefer if people began making payments in June 2014 once the H.H.H. / Building Fund finishes. It is advised that one speak to one's personal financial advisor or accountant to determine what might be in one's best interest in terms of payment schedule.

How should subsequent payments be made?

Donors may choose to pay pledge balances monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. Reminders will be sent according to the pledge redemption schedule the donor specifies.

How do I send my payments?

A special envelope labeled will arrive according with the reminder schedule that you select when you sign your pledge card. For your convenience, you may choose a monthly, quarterly, semi-monthly, or annual schedule.

Please use **only** your special envelope to make your pledge payments.

For accounting purposes and to ensure that your pledge payments are appropriately acknowledged and receipted, donors are encouraged to make pledge payments in the designated capital campaign envelope.

As soon as your pledge is recorded, you may prefer to make your payments **on-line using a major credit card, debit card, checking or savings account**. You will receive the instructions for on-line payments with your pledge reminders. Please contact the parish for questions relating to this.

Are gifts to this campaign tax deductible?

Yes. As a 501(c) 3 Organization, gifts to ***BRINGING CHRIST'S LOVE ALIVE!*** are tax deductible, to the fullest extent allowed by law. Contact your tax advisor for more information.

Why are we asked to support the Campaign for the Diocese?

All the parishes of the Diocese of Pittsburgh are being asked to support the diocesan campaign **OUR CAMPAIGN FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE!** The campaign of the diocese will fund the most urgent needs of the diocese and will allow our Diocese to continue to grow the work of God amongst the families and individuals of the six counties that encompass the Church of Pittsburgh.

Who will manage the funds raised from BRINGING CHRIST'S LOVE ALIVE!?

The Diocese of Pittsburgh will manage the redemption of all pledges. This task will entail the mailing of payment reminders and tax statements to donors and quarterly reports to St. Catherine of Sweden Parish. They will also ensure all payments are deposited into our Parish Fund to use for our parish improvements and renovations.

Why is it important for every member of St. Catherine of Sweden to give?

St. Catherine of Sweden Parish hopes every parishioner will consider giving sacrificially to this historic and challenging campaign. 100% participation is the goal. The parishioners and community members of St. Catherine of Sweden will be the beneficiaries of this project and the participation of every member is a significant way to thank God for all his wonderful blessings.