



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

OVERVIEW

Who is leading the *Alive in Christ* Campaign?

Led first by the Holy Spirit, many will accept the responsibility of leadership of *Alive in Christ*. Bishop Wenski has already taken the primary role of first champion in the campaign, and he has begun the process of involving others. Fr. Richard Trout, Pastor of All Souls Catholic Church and School in Sanford, will serve as the Clergy Chair of the Campaign and an engaged group of pastors are serving on the Pastors' Advisory Committee. The first group of founding Board members of the Catholic Foundation of Central Florida will serve in the Executive Committee of the Campaign Cabinet – a group of dedicated women and men who are giving of themselves in inspiring ways to lead this landmark effort in Central Florida. To provide additional leadership, Bishop Wenski will invite a Chair Person, Couple, or Family to lead by their word and witness

How will the campaign be conducted?

By design, the campaign will be staffed from within by the newly formed Catholic Foundation of Central Florida. Different from the traditional approach of hiring outside campaign firms as temporary staff, this initiative will form a professional team to build strength internally and establish a long term relationship-centered model of stewardship and development. This approach positions the Diocese of Orlando for greater growth to meet the new and growing ministry opportunities that will surely come. This model will serve to catapult the Diocese to greater engagement, enthusiasm, and generosity not only during the campaign but for years to come as we continue to advance the mission of the Church.

The Foundation has been incorporated as a separate 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, fully endorsed by the Diocese and its Bishop, Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski. This legal structure ensures that all gifts will be used for their intended purposes and provides a level of efficiency, accountability and transparency that will earn the respect and confidence of donors and establish the Foundation as a national model for Catholic philanthropy and stewardship.

Who decided what the campaign priorities would be?

Our campaign priorities are guided by our ambitious Synod plan, the culmination of an 18-month process in which over 1000 volunteers, lay and clergy, collaborated to identify our most pressing needs and define a vision for our future.

Following the close of the Synod, three Implementation Teams (Diocesan Pastoral Council, Catholic Charities and Schools) were established and charged with prioritizing the Synod recommendations, establishing appropriate timelines, and discerning the human and financial resources necessary to implement the vision. These priorities have been presented to Bishop Wenski, and he continues to seek the valued counsel of others to help shape our direction over these next ten years.

What exactly is a Synod?

In the Catholic Church, a Synod is an assembly of the people of God within a diocese. It serves as an advisory body to the diocesan bishop as he seeks to teach, sanctify, and lead the people entrusted to his care.

Bishop Wenski convoked the First Synod of the Diocese of Orlando to affirm where we have been faithful to our mission as a Catholic community, and to identify areas where we can better communicate the truth and hope of the Gospel. While the traditional function of a Synod is to enact legislation or policies for the good ordering of a local Church, Synods have also come to be seen as opportunities for a diocese to foster a unified vision, to plan for the future and to develop strategies for realizing future goals.



Why do we need this campaign?

The Diocese of Orlando has been blessed with extraordinary growth and an increasingly diverse population, but with this economic expansion come new and exciting challenges. The *Alive in Christ* Campaign will address the immediate and long-term capital and endowment needs of our Diocese, providing the strong financial foundation necessary to advance our mission and fulfill our shared vision.

While *Alive in Christ* will make possible some of the larger Church priorities that surfaced in the Synod, the important capital and endowment needs at the parish level will also be addressed. Parish goals and campaign share-formulas strongly reflect the priority that is being placed on the local church...strong parishes do equal a strong diocese.

Through *Alive in Christ* and the generosity of God's people, the Diocese can continue to proclaim the Gospel throughout Central Florida, ensuring that future generations will come to know the Lord and share in the life of His Church.

Are there plans for new schools to be built? Where and when will these schools be built, and who will make that determination?

Already the Diocese of Orlando is pursuing a new initiative that could result in the construction of our first new elementary school in more than 10 years, with consideration currently being given to the Oviedo/Tusawilla area in eastern Seminole County. This area has experienced explosive development in recent years and continues to be particularly attractive to young families with school age children.

And this is just the beginning! Responding to the School Commission's recommendation of an aggressive expansion of our Catholic school system, we are looking at other options as well, including Avalon Park, Lake Nona-Boggy Creek, Clermont and Deltona, to name a few. But we will not move hastily. We've contracted with the internationally recognized consulting firm, Catholic School Management, Inc. to help church leaders study enrollment projections, the impact on existing parishes and schools, potential costs, detailed demographics and other pertinent information.

We're also considering the benefits of "regional schools," which attract students from multiple parishes, promote good stewardship and encourage non-school parishes to participate in and support Catholic education

GIVING TO THE *ALIVE IN CHRIST* CAMPAIGN

Who will be asked to support the *Alive in Christ* Campaign?

Continuing the collaborative engagement that began with our Synod planning, every parish and every family in the Diocese will be invited to support our shared vision through *Alive in Christ*.

Based on the 32-year tradition of success with Our Catholic Appeal and the base of faithful givers to parish offertory, the Diocese of Orlando is blessed with thousands of individuals and families who can and will be generous to *Alive in Christ* at many different levels.

How can my gift help meet the needs of both my parish and the diocese?

The diocese takes seriously its ministry of service to our 90 parishes and mission parishes, for it is here that the work of Christ is experienced most directly- in the celebration of the sacraments, in teaching and sharing our faith, in serving human needs and in reaching out to those who are poor and marginalized. With the assistance of Foundation staff, our 90 parishes and missions will conduct their own effort for the *Alive in Christ* campaign. To ensure that our parishes have the resources needed to sustain and expand their life-changing ministries and to meet



the challenges of a rapidly growing population, a portion of campaign proceeds will be returned to the parishes. *Alive in Christ* will feature a generous share formula that reaffirms the importance of our parishes and provides parishioners with an opportunity to embrace the mission of the Church at both the diocesan and local level.

We are currently in the process of determining an overall campaign goal of \$150-175 million. If we are blessed to raise this amount, \$90-100 million will be returned to parishes for capital improvements, debt reduction, parish or school endowments, and other projects

When are parishes being asked to participate?

Within the context of one large campaign, ninety parish-level campaigns will be conducted in four different waves over a two year period, beginning in January, 2008 and extending through December, 2009. Parishes in Wave One will begin the active phase of their campaign in January 2008 and run through May 2008.

Will there be opportunities for youth to participate?

Yes! The Youth and Young Adult Campaign (YA2) is an innovative component of the Alive in Christ Campaign that will engage young people throughout the diocese and empower them to live as faithful stewards of an exciting, mission-driven Church. It is the first time that a diocesan-wide campaign has involved young people in such an intentional way with the belief that they have something very important to share, not the least of which is their passion and their witness.

Who will be praying for our success?

The Synod that has given life to the campaign was so successful due in part to the thousands of people who committed to pray for its success. Likewise, *Alive in Christ* will begin on a firm foundation of prayer and thanksgiving. Each parish will be asked to designate a Prayer Team Leader who will reconnect the parish to the spiritual basis of our mission by organizing and implementing a prayer campaign. This is a wonderful opportunity to redirect our attention to the Lord, recognizing that all we have in this world is truly a result of His love and grace.

I have more questions...

If you have questions that have not been addressed in this Case for Support, please feel free to contact

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