

During the next month we'll be conducting our new capital campaign. It will have three goals: to continue the renovation of our facilities, especially the school; to reduce our debt; and to support the diocesan capital campaign. I first want to thank everyone who has participated in our capital efforts in the past. You have helped us improve our ministry to the community.

I will not be asking for anyone's contributions today, so you can relax. I will be asking for your time today. In fact, please pick up and pass around the yellow cards and pencils. They are the purpose of this talk.

In the next several weeks we plan personal contact with every registered member of St. Regis. I'm inviting every family to attend a reception where you can hear the details and receive your brochure and pledge card. I'd like everyone please to attend one of these receptions. If the date you receive isn't good, we'll give you another one. But please I really need everyone to attend one reception. If you have not yet registered with us, just write a note on the yellow card and we'll take care of it for you.

At the reception you'll hear about the plans for St. Regis and learn about our hopes for this campaign. You can ask questions. We won't ask you to make a pledge at the reception. You pick up your materials and learn how every family can make a pledge to the best of their ability. If you come to the reception you will not receive phone calls and visits from volunteers when the home visitation phase begins. During that phase we plan to have someone visit every household -- every household that was unable to attend a campaign reception. It's to make those visits that I need to ask for your time today.

For us to contact every parishioner personally, I'll need the help of about 200 volunteer workers. Specifically, I'm asking you for about 10-12 hours end of September, early October. The only qualifications you need are your willingness to sacrifice a small amount of your time and your desire to help us improve our facilities, reduce our debt, and assist our diocese. You won't have to work alone. You'll have a partner. Spouses or friends can work together. We'll start with a meeting here on Tuesday, September 19, and we'll work out from there how the visits will happen. If I could get all 200 volunteers at this mass, that would help. If you're sitting there thinking, "He's not talking to me," well, he is.

So, please fill out a card now and tell me you can help with that phase of the campaign. You'll notice at the bottom there's also a place to check if you'd rather help with mailings during the work day. The more volunteers we have the less work they each do. And, the more we have attend the receptions the fewer homes there will be to visit. I really want every household to have some personal contact. When you finish filling out the yellow cards you may toss them in the collection today as a sign of your sacrifice to God. We'll contact you with more information.

There will be weekly newsletters in the bulletin, announcements at mass, and mailings. We'll give everyone a chance to learn what's going on.

So again, my thanks for your past support. Thanks to those volunteering time today. And everyone, please plan to attend a reception

and tell your friends to attend as well.