



# Together We Grow

St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church

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## Campaign Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Questions about the overall campaign:

**Q. What is *Together We Grow*? What are we raising funds for?**

*Together We Grow* is the name of the capital campaign in progress at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish. Based on extensive planning, reflection, and input from our community, this campaign seeks to address specific current and future needs resulting from the growth of our parish. We are raising funds to eliminate the debt, expand the gathering space to include a serving area; and contribute to the Archdiocese's *One Faith, One Hope, One Love* campaign.

**Q. Why is St. Maximilian Kolbe doing a combined campaign (campaign within a campaign)?**

Every parish within the archdiocese is participating in the *One Faith, One Hope, One Love* campaign, where 20% of the monies received are going back to the parish. Due to the growth of the surrounding area and the anticipated increase in the parish family, St. Max opted to move forward with a campaign within a campaign instead of completing the *One Faith, One Hope, One Love* campaign now and then doing another campaign in the near future. By doing the campaign within a campaign St. Max is receiving dollar for dollar on the monies received since the archdiocese is waiving their standard assessment (10% of all monies a parish receives). St. Max also benefits by having the Catholic Community Foundation for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati take responsibility for remittance of pledges, year-end tax statements, etc., for the duration of the pledge redemption period.

**Q. Who will be asked to support the *Together We Grow* campaign?**

Every household in the parish will be asked to prayerfully consider a gift to the *Together We Grow* campaign.

**Q. When will the campaign start?**

The campaign is in progress. In order for us to reach all parishioners, we ask that you promptly receive a visit from a campaign volunteer and make your pledge at that time or shortly afterward. We will ask you to consider serving as a campaign volunteer, so we may visit as many families as possible.

**Q. Why emphasize personal visits?**

Personal visits emphasize the importance of this campaign and a family's role within it. Visits allow campaign volunteers to express their enthusiasm, share their experience, thoroughly present the campaign case, and offer potential donors the opportunity to ask questions. In addition, personal visits allow us to focus on stewardship and building relationships within our parish community.

### Questions about giving:

**Q. How much am I expected to give?**

All parishioners are being asked to prayerfully consider a specific amount. However, only you can determine the amount of your gift. Consider the various plans in your packet. Please remember, we need the participation of every family and the sacrifice you are able to make is a truly generous gift, regardless of the size.

**Q. Why am I asked to consider a specific amount?**

Parishioners need to know what levels of support are necessary to meet and exceed our campaign's financial need. A gift amount is suggested for each family to prayerfully consider. This amount is not a mandate or an assessed contribution. No judgment is made on the level of gift you or others make. We only ask that you pray about what kind of sacrifice you are able to make.

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**Q. What if I choose not to give the amount requested?**

Your family and your situation are unique; only you can decide what gift you are able to make. You are simply asked to prayerfully consider a specific gift. Whatever your response, it should be one of choice and sacrifice.

**Q. I dislike pledging. Why am I asked to make a pledge instead of a one-time gift?**

You can make a one-time gift; however, our level of need means that the success of the campaign rests largely on pledges payable over five years. In addition, by making a pledge, you are able to donate more than would be possible with a one-time gift.

**Q. I would like to make a pledge, but our budget is especially tight this year. How can I still participate?**

The campaign pledge is structured over a period of five years. You can determine when you want to start payment of your pledge.

**Q. Will I need to continue contributing to the offertory?**

Yes! The weekly offertory funds the normal operating expenses of the parish. We depend on these contributions for our daily operations and ministries.

**Q. Can I make a gift other than cash or check?**

Yes! A range of other possibilities exist, including: credit/debit card, automatic withdrawal, electronic fund transfers, bequests, and stock. Please contact the Catholic Community Foundation at 844-260-4483.

**Q. What if my financial situation changes and I cannot fulfill my pledge?**

Your pledge to support the campaign is made in good faith. Should you need to reduce or stop your pledge payments, please contact the Catholic Community Foundation at 844-260-4483.

**Q. Why ask parishioners for different amounts? Wouldn't dividing the parish goal by the number of households be easier and fairer?**

It certainly would be easier. However, it definitely would not be fairer, and would ensure that a parish does not reach its goal. Because people are blessed differently, a principle of the campaign is equal sacrifice, not equal giving. We all give to the parish at varying degrees. While all parishioners should be contacted, those with little giving history are least likely to give to a major campaign. Therefore, asking for equal amounts from everyone would put the campaign in jeopardy. However, if we ask for different amounts based on past generosity to St. Maximilian Kolbe, we challenge all to give as they are able and according to their blessings, and in the process, help ensure *Together We Grow's* success.

**Questions about the project:**

**Q. How were the projects of this campaign determined?**

When Fr. Geoff was assigned to St. Max he conducted 50 neighborhood sessions to learn what parishioners thought of the parish and their wants for St. Max as it moved into the future. In 2011 a personnel & facility study was conducted by the pastoral staff, deacons, finance & pastoral councils to shape the staff & facility priorities. Based on these conversations two potential projects were determined to complete with the anticipated funds received from the *One Faith, One Hope, One Love* campaign. In fall of 2014 St. Maximilian began conversations with the archdiocese to move forward with a combined campaign with the hope to complete the archdiocesan portion and the two proposed projects for St. Max.

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**Q. When will construction begin?**

St. Maximilian Kolbe will not begin any construction until the current debt is paid off and after 50% of budgeted cash is in hand so multi-year, long-term debt is not entered into again.

**Q. What is *One Faith, One Hope, One Love*? How was our contribution determined?**

*One Faith, One Hope, One Love* is the capital campaign for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. It seeks to raise funds for Catholic education, fostering vocations, Catholic Charities, and retired diocesan priests. Our contribution of \$1,716,000 is 120% of our 2013 offertory. This is the formula used to determine every parish goal. All funds raised above this goal will remain at our parish for our own needs.