



## About our Capital Campaign

### Who will be asked to give to the capital campaign?

Every parishioner will be asked to participate through a sacrificial gift to the campaign, and every parishioner will be given multiple opportunities to do so. The role of our campaign committee will be to help develop a strategy to appropriately engage the community and encourage sacrificial participation in the campaign from all parish families. We will strive for 100% participation.

### Why should I support both CSA and the capital campaign?

The Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA) supports the many programs and ministries offered through the Diocese of Las Vegas, such as seminary formation and education, pastoral care through programs offered through Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada and the St. Therese Aids & HIV Outreach Center, and TV Masses for the sick and homebound. The capital campaign will support only the projects in our parish. Any rebate we receive from contributions to CSA that exceed our diocesan assessment of \$287,580 will be put toward capital campaign projects.

### As far as the church enhancements, why do we need a new altar and ambo?

The Roman Missal and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops give us guidelines on the appropriateness of altar furnishings. It is important to follow those directives.

At the Eucharist, the liturgical assembly celebrates the ritual sacrificial meal that recalls and makes present Christ's life, death, and resurrection, proclaiming the "the Lord until he comes." The altar is

the center of thanksgiving that the Eucharist accomplishes and the point around which the other rites are in some manner arrayed. Since the Church teaches that "the altar is Christ," its composition should reflect the nobility, beauty, strength and simplicity of the One it represents.

The Roman Missal states, "it is desirable that in every church there be a fixed altar, since this more clearly and permanently signifies Christ Jesus, the Living Stone." (1 Pt 2:4; cf. Eph 2:20). "An altar is said to be fixed if it is so constructed as to be attached to the floor and not movable; it is said to be movable if it can be displaced."

Guidelines also tell us, "In keeping within the Church's traditional practice and with what the altar signifies, the table of a fixed altar should be of stone and indeed of natural stone."

In adhering to this guideline we will replace our existing moveable altar with a fixed altar as one of the sanctuary enhancements.

Guidelines on the ambo are also documented in the Roman Missal. It states, "The dignity of the Word of God requires that in the church there be a suitable place from which it may be proclaimed and toward which the attention of the faithful naturally turns during the Liturgy of the Word. It is appropriate that generally this place be a stationary ambo and not simply a moveable lectern."

In following this guideline we will replace our existing movable ambo with a stationary one that is in harmony with and proportionate to the new altar.

### Which renovations in the church are immediately necessary?

Because the origin of the capital campaign is rooted in our Jubilee Anniversary projects, we hope to complete as many of the church enhancements as possible before our anniversary date of June 19, 2020.



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### **How can I make a pledge to the campaign? Can I pledge over time?**

Our campaign offers a wide range of gift opportunities to participate at all levels. You may choose a plan that provides you with both flexibility and time to complete the payment of your pledge. Because our needs are urgent, we encourage you to complete your pledge within three years.

### **Is my pledge legally binding? Will it be confidential?**

A pledge is a gift—one you consider to be meaningful to you. It is not legally binding. All we ask is that you do your best and advise us of any financial changes that will impact your pledge. All pledges will be kept confidential. Only the people responsible for maintaining the records will have access to your pledge.

### **Do we have long-term maintenance budgeted? If not, is our parish providing adequate reserves for building maintenance?**

At the present time, we have a yearly maintenance budget, but we do not have a long-term maintenance budget, nor do we have a long-term maintenance fund reserve.

There was a general understanding from the former administration that, if needed, we would fund over-budgeted yearly maintenance expenses with money from our savings (which currently holds a balance of \$600,000) and then immediately replenish the savings through weekly offertory donations. However, as a result of the CARA Parish Life Survey, we created a Facilities/Grounds and Maintenance subcommittee to address our maintenance needs. The committee consists of a general contractor, an architect, a UNLV professor and the SEAS maintenance staff. We are all in agreement that a long-term maintenance fund must be implemented.

So far, the committee has addressed the need to resurface the parking lot (which was completed last summer), and has acquired estimates for the repair of—and in some areas replacement of—the parish and school roofs. The committee also advises that money be set aside for impending repairs or replacement of our 49 aging campus air conditioning units. Some parishioners were under the impression we wanted to replace all the units at one time, but we will only repair or replace each unit as needed through deferred (withheld until needed) maintenance.

Although we take up a monthly collection for a maintenance fund, it only brings in about \$60,000 a year. This fund goes toward maintaining both the campus grounds and buildings. Our parish campus covers 13 acres and includes a church, school, chapel and parish hall. In a given year, it costs roughly \$130,000 to maintain just the church and parish hall. This is simple maintenance consisting of day-to-day repairs, pest control, landscaping, plumbing services and other professional services. A budget of \$50,000 was allocated for school maintenance for the 2018-2019 school year. We have already exceeded it.

### **What is the financial relationship between the parish and our school?**

Our church and school have separate operating budgets and separate accounts, but because the Catholic education we provide through our school is a ministry of our parish (parochial school) we subsidize it.

### **Why is our school an important ministry that we should support—whether we have a connection to the school or not?**

Other than the sacramental liturgies, our 2nd largest ministry is Catholic education. Out of all the titles Jesus could have taken while performing his public ministry, “rabbi” or “teacher” was the one he took. The Church has carried on this ministry of teaching through the Catholic education provided in parochial or parish schools. We continue that tradition of offering a Catholic education here at our parish.

In the United States, the first Catholic school was started by our patroness, Elizabeth Ann Seton. It was a free Catholic school for girls in Emmittsburg, Maryland. That first school began our present-day Catholic school system. Education based in the teachings of Jesus Christ help form good, faith-based citizens who not only benefit our parish, but our society as a whole.

**Look for answers to more campaign FAQs in next week’s Home School Connection.**

# St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish



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### Why do we need religious art and furnishing in the church?

As stated in, *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture, and Worship—Guidelines of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops*, art is meant to bring the divine to the human world, to the level of the senses, then, from the spiritual insight gained through the senses and the stirring of the emotions, to raise the human world to God, to his inexpressible kingdom of mystery, beauty, and life.

Authentic art is integral to the Church at prayer because these objects and actions are “signs and symbols of the supernatural world” and expressions of the divine presence. Artistic creations inspire contemplation and devotion with every visible and tactile detail of architecture possessing the potential to express the wholeness, harmony and radiance of profound beauty.

Appropriately fashioned, quality artwork is evident in the honesty and genuineness of the materials that are used, the nobility of the form embodied in them, the love and care that goes into the creation of the work of art, and the personal stamp of the artist whose special gift produces a harmonious whole and well-crafted work. The integrity and energy of a piece of art, produced individually by the labor of an artist, is always to be preferred above objects that are mass-produced.

When artists are called upon to serve the Christian community, there is an “ethic,” a “spirituality of artistic service.” Breadth of imagination enables an artist to communicate deep meaning and powerful religious sentiment with grace and sensitivity. This gift from God is combined with refined educated talents that execute elegantly crafted objects for the glory of God and the good of the community. A truly worthy and beautiful artwork can express the intentions, faith, and life of that community and can even transform it.

Beautiful, compelling artwork draws the people of God into a deeper awareness of their lives and of their common goals as a Christian community as well as of their roles and responsibilities in the wider world. Art that fulfills these qualities is art worthy of the Christian assembly.

### Shouldn't we be helping the poor instead of enhancing our church?

It's not a question of doing one or the other—we can do both!

Just as Jesus showed great compassion for the poor and oppressed, the Church has always cared for the disadvantaged and continues to carry out this great tradition of charity today. Here at SEAS, our Outreach Ministry is committed to the mission of advocating for and ministering to those in need. It is a vibrant ministry that continues to grow daily—in the number of services offered, in the number of people served, and in the number of people who want to serve. The ministry actively seeks out ways to help those in need while creating diverse opportunities for our parishioners to volunteer through the giving of their time, talent and treasure. Our parish will continue to help the poor, the disadvantaged and the sick through our ministries and through other outreach opportunities. And we will continue to encourage our entire parish community to join us in being the compassion of Christ to others, especially to those in need.

“For the poor you will always have with you in the land. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’” (Deut. 15:11)

There will be a time when each of us as believers will be called to give an account of our lives in service to Christ; therefore, we should always be looking for ways to glorify God and build the Church through our good works in the name of Christ.

As for our church enhancements, we are inspired by the story of creation. The Book of Genesis tells us that the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, but in 6 days all of creation was completed in all its vast array and wondrous beauty, and God announced that His creation was “very good” (verse 31). God created beauty from chaos. It was his first creation. It was not an accident, a mistake, or the product of an inferior deity, but beauty through God's self-expression.

We want to honor God with a worship space that is inspired by this beauty. We will offer up our best efforts with well-crafted furnishings that are founded in the teachings of the Church, formed with integrity, and reflect the spirit of our faith community.



HONORING  
*our* PAST  
EMBRACING  
*our* FUTURE

A Campaign for Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

God of the past, present, and future,

We come before you ever mindful of the many ways you have blessed our parish community in the past, the many ways you continue to sustain and guide us in the present, and the many ways you call us to build up and serve your people in the future.

Through your grace and the goodness of so many generous and dedicated parishioners, we have become a vibrant community of faith. We celebrate the strong foundation of faith that has taken root in our parish, and through our capital campaign embrace the joys and challenges of growing into the future—a future filled with endless possibility. Gift us with the spirit of your peace, wisdom, and courage in all that we do, and in all that we will do. We accept our call to be builders of your kingdom and place our trust in your guiding hand as we pray, “Lord, give success to the work of our hands!” (Psalm 90:17)

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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**What is the tuition for SEAS School and how does it compare to other Catholic and private schools in Las Vegas?**

For the 2019-2020 school year, the SEAS parishioner tuition rate is \$6600. The non-parishioner rate is \$7500. We do not know the tuition rates for every non-parochial private school in Las Vegas, but in most cases, SEAS School tuition is less expensive than other private schools in our city. Tuition rates for private schools in Summerlin can be considerably higher than SEAS, at times, 2 to 3 times more expensive. In comparison to other Catholic schools in Las Vegas, SEAS is moderately more expensive.

**As a school parent, is my tuition payment all I need to give to support our parish?**

No. Based on a 400 student enrollment, the cost per student at SEAS is about \$8678 a year, so tuition does not cover the entire cost of educating each child. If the tuition rate is too high, enrollment will decline so fundraising through school activities such as the Apex Fun Run, and through events such as ARTESIA and the Boo Bash help make up the difference. Significant efforts are also made to raise money for tuition assistance. The Catholic education we provide is a ministry of our church; therefore, we are committed to keeping our tuition rate as affordable as possible while still being able to offer competitive pay for quality teachers and provide our students with the best educational programs. Also, as a parishioner you receive the parishioner rate, but we would like you to be a registered parishioner who participates in parish life, ministries and activities, and who enjoys fellowship with our faith community. Although the finances are separate, both the church and school are part of SEAS parish, and the church will subsidize the school when necessary.



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**How can this capital campaign unite our parish?**

As Christians, we are all called to be members of the body of Christ and our parish family is part of Christ’s body here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Family members, by virtue of being part of a family, all have responsibilities to each other. And so it is with our parish family. We have a responsibility to each other as it states in our parish mission, “to respond to the Lord’s call of discipleship by nurturing a sense of belonging among parishioners and providing opportunities for living out the Gospel while joyfully embracing life and spiritual transformation.” Our capital campaign can be an opportunity for transformation and growth as we continue the mission of our parish and of the Church.

**Will we be asking families to give an amount above and beyond their regular giving?**

Yes. We will be emphasizing to every family that the amount they give is over and above their regular giving since this project addresses a capital need and regular giving is for expenses in our parish operational budget.

**What does “generosity of giving” mean?**

We learn the meaning of “generosity of giving” in Holy Scripture: “You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God, for the administration of this public service is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God. Through the evidence of this service, you are glorifying God for your obedient confession of the Gospel of Christ and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all others...” (2 Cor. 9:11-13)