



Dear Saint Joseph Parishioners,

Our Diocese is celebrating our 200th Anniversary this year and as such many of you have heard about the Bicentennial Campaign. This campaign is meant to raise money for the mission of the Diocese as well as address local needs.

As I outlined in the previous correspondences, we are utilizing some of the money raised to go towards improving the safety, health and general environment of our school. This much needed project is underway. Asbestos has been removed and the improvements will provide a wonderful learning environment for our children.

In this effort we have heard from many who also want to see improvement to our church. Our last renovation of the church took care of many needed improvements of our physical building. But, as we have grown, we realize that handicap restroom facilities in the church, the cry room, and covered access into the church have yet to be addressed.

That is why we are expanding the scope of the Bicentennial Campaign to include these much-needed improvements that will directly improve the worship experience for all our parishioners. The Finance Council, along with Father Touzeau and I have carefully considered the financial feasibility and fiscal responsibility of such a project, and have determined that this project can be added to our current school project if we have the support from the parish and without raising our financial goal.

The Diocese formula allows our parish to retain fifty percent of the overall target raised. Our parish campaign target is \$1,530,000, which will provide us a minimum of \$765,000. If our target is exceeded, our parish will then receive 75% of what is raised over our target. If we reach 125%, we will receive 100% of what is raised above the 125%. Any funds raised will be used for the improvement of our school and church.

Your support of our parish has always been generous and sacrificial. Because of your spiritual commitment and goodness over the years to St. Joseph I ask you to give serious, prayerful consideration to a sacrificial gift which can be honored in one lump sum, or over a five (5) year basis. This commitment could be in any combination of cash, trust, and appreciated securities or property.

Thank you for your past generosity, and for your prayerful consideration of supporting this important additional project. Attached please see the enclosed renderings and descriptions. To donate or pledge, please visit our website: <https://www.stjosephcolumbia.org/bicentennial-campaign> or contact Donna Watson, our Bicentennial Campaign Chair at the church office.

God's peace and blessings,

Rev. Msgr. Richard D. Harris, V.G.
Vicar General & Pastor

Diocese of Charleston
BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN OFFICE