



Our Faith • Our Children • Our Future

Endowment Campaign

Questions & Answers about the Campaign

St. Pius X / St. Leo Catholic School is embarking on a campaign to build an endowment for tuition assistance and support of teachers salaries as well as direct aid to students. All money put into the endowment fund would remain intact and the annual interest earned on it would be used to fund these endeavors. Following are some questions and answers that will, hopefully, help you to understand the campaign further:

Why do we need an endowment campaign?

- The goal of our school is to make sure that every child who desires a Catholic education can receive one regardless of race, creed, or socio-economic status. The only way to truly accomplish this goal is to build an endowment for tuition assistance. The need for tuition assistance has never been greater and it is outpacing our ability to provide it from our operating budget. We do not want to turn children away because of an inability to pay.

What about the portion of the endowment for teacher salaries?

- A school is only as good as its teachers and we have been blessed with very talented and dedicated teachers. A testament to their dedication is their willingness to work for significantly less money than they could make in a public school system. In order for us to continue to keep and recruit the best teachers in the future, we must close the gap between our salaries and those of public school teachers. The endowment will allow us to do that without taking additional funds from the operating budget.

Is this a good time to conduct a capital campaign?

- From the market's point of view, the timing is actually favorable for us. This is the best time for us to invest in the endowment. A five-year campaign will allow the parish to build its portfolio and be in a good position when the market begins to make significant, lasting gains.

How will a major campaign impact our weekly giving at our parish?

- We share a concern that this could happen and we ask parishioners to continue their stewardship support at the same level. The campaign volunteers will ask parishioners to make pledges above and beyond their regular giving. Parishioners are not asked to diminish giving to the parish but, rather, to consider a commitment above their normal weekly gift. In the long term, similar campaigns have created increases in parish giving by strengthening the bond between parishioners and their church.

Why are we doing an endowment campaign while St. Pius X is in the middle of a parish campaign?

- The need is so great for tuition assistance and support of teacher's salaries that we didn't feel we could wait to do this campaign for the school. It is our hope that the entire school community, including St. Leo parishioners, St. Pius X parishioners, school parents, alumni and former parents will come together to support this worthwhile effort.

Do the Finance Councils and Parish Councils fully support this endowment campaign?

- At the conclusion of the Feasibility Study, the Finance Councils and Parish Councils of the two parishes met jointly and individually to discuss the findings and future action to be taken. They came to the consensus that to embark on the campaign at this time was necessary for the future of the school. With this input and prayerful consideration, Fr. Pietramale and Fr. Buse decided to move forward with this campaign.

How will the endowment fund be invested and administered?

- St. Pius X / St. Leo School currently has an educational endowment trust fund that is managed by a group of trustees representing both parishes. The fund follows the investment policies set forth by the Archdiocese. These new funds will be added to the current fund and invested in the same manner. Proceeds from this new portion of the fund will be distributed on an annual basis for tuition assistance and the support of teachers' salaries.

How does the school determine who qualifies for tuition aid and how much they are awarded?

- When parents request assistance with tuition for their child or children, we require them to complete an application with an independent third-party company called Financial Aid Independent Review (F.A.I.R.) that we've hired to evaluate a family's need for this assistance. Once the majority of applications are in, the F.A.I.R. Company sends the principal a review for each application and gives the principal a statement of the tuition needs of each family. During the month of July, once the Children Scholarship amounts have been awarded, the principal and pastors meet to determine how much assistance can be given to each family according to their needs and the funds available from the parishes and other donors. We have never been able to award the full need to each family. Because of our limited funds we usually can only award a part of the need. Parents still have to come forward with some of the tuition money.

Our children are grown and no longer attend St. Pius X / St. Leo School or Religious Education classes. Why should we support this campaign?

- Stewardship lies at the heart of our understanding that all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God, who calls us to share our gifts with others. Generation after generation of parishioners have been blessed by the priests, sisters, teachers and staff who cared for our physical, educational and spiritual needs. We are the beneficiaries of their legacy, just as future generations will benefit from the sacrifices we make today. This is our time and our place to do what is needed and right for the church of today and tomorrow.

Is it possible to have my gift to the endowment campaign matched by my employer?

- A matching gift program provided through your employer or board membership may allow you to increase the value of your gift. Many companies match charitable gifts made by their employees, retirees or board members.

How can I help?

- We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can help this critical effort for our school. Please be prepared for a call from Fr. John, Fr. Harry, or one of our campaign leaders asking you help with the effort and/or make a gift that will make a difference and is meaningful to you. Everyone will be asked to contribute. Your prayers and hard work will lay the foundation for the future of St. Pius X / St. Leo Catholic School!

