

***Mater Dei Latin Mass Mater Dei
Irving, TX
Case for Support***



Dear Mater Dei,

On June 27, 1991, the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter's first Mass in Dallas was said by Father Michael Irwin; there was only one person in attendance. Twenty-two years later, that person still attends Mater Dei, but she is no longer alone. The community has grown tremendously, so much so that it is time for our second new church.

Shortly after that first Mass, the Mater Dei Latin Mass Community found a temporary home with the Carmelites on Flowers Avenue in Dallas. Sunday Mass attendance was limited due to the size of the convent chapel. Though the chapel seats only about 90 people, as word of the Latin Mass spread, upwards of 300 people would attend the 2 Sunday Latin Masses there (many standing outside, no matter what the weather). In 2007, Bishop Kevin J. Farrell became the Bishop of Dallas, and the Mater Dei Latin Mass Community received permission to seek a permanent home. Father Joseph Terra, the chaplain at the time, searched the diocese before settling on Mater Dei's current location, just a few miles from the Carmelites, where the Latin Mass Community felt so welcome for those many years.

On December 6, 2009 the community took possession of the current facility. Two days later, on Our Lady's feast day, the first Mass was said in the improvised chapel in the Mater Dei parish hall; 550 people attended. Our Lord, and our priests have been here ever since, and the attendance at the Sunday Masses has increased. Currently, about 900 faithful attend Mater Dei weekly. The Community was granted Parish status on Easter Sunday 2010, and in October 2010, Bishop Farrell blessed the newly renovated church and "prophesied" that we would need to build a new church in five years. Today, here we are, truly needing to build a bigger church to accommodate our growing flock.

Our current proposal is to build, on the current site in Irving, a Spanish Mission style church with a seating capacity of 500 people minimum, and to have ample space in the sanctuary for the solemn celebration of weddings, funerals, and Holy Week liturgies.

Our Fundraising Feasibility Study

In order to respond to the needs of a growing community, we are assessing the financial feasibility and potential of a major capital campaign. Such a project would address the following needs:

1. **Build a Permanent church** -The need to grow is now, thanks be to God. As a house of God, and as the church of one of the largest Latin Mass parishes in the world, our new building should be not only large enough, but also beautiful. A church should be a catechism lesson. And we would like ours to have the best acoustics possible for the beautiful choir that we are blessed with. Catholic artists, architects, and builders have all been consulted, and all are eager to work on our project for the love of God and His Church. All we need now is to be able to afford it. The estimated cost of the project as currently conceived is approximately \$5,000,000; roughly \$1 million for every 100 seats. If we can secure more than \$5,000,000 over the next three to five years, the parish may be positioned to build a larger church reducing the concerns about future expansions in years to come.
2. **Our Faith... Our Future** is a diocesan-wide campaign currently underway in the Diocese of Dallas. Every parish in the diocese will participate in the campaign. As part of the diocesan-wide campaign, Mater Dei has been assigned a financial target of \$350,000. It is our obligation to the diocese to guarantee 80% of the Mater Dei’s target which is \$280,000. This amount will be incorporated into Mater Dei’s campaign so that we will not have to conduct an additional fundraising campaign.

These are exciting times in the Church, and at Mater Dei! With the dedication and devotion of so many, we have come very far. We are blessed with many children in our parish, some of whom, have grown up in the Mater Dei community, and other from new families discovering the parish for the first time. Thus there is a need to grow, to provide for the future of our families. There is much to do; please consider helping.

Fr. Longua invites you to participate in a fundraising Feasibility Study that will provide Mater Dei leadership with additional information about the financial potential of Mater Dei and the level of support for the proposed project. Study results will help Father Thomas Longua and Mater Dei leadership determine an obtainable campaign goal, prioritize Mater Dei needs, and identify volunteer leadership to spearhead our fundraising initiative. The campaign goal and the strength of the commitment toward this project will determine if this carefully conceived plans could take the next step toward realization.

Thank you for your thoughtful participation in this important study.

Project Costs & Financing

To achieve our vision to have a permanent church for Mater Dei, we are testing the feasibility of raising \$5,000,000 through a capital campaign.

Estimated Project Cost	\$5,000,000
<i>Our Faith... Our Future</i> Diocesan Campaign (80% of Mater Dei target)	\$280,000
Mater Dei Project Need	\$4,720,000