

FREQUENTLY

Asked Questions



BUILDING a BEAUTIFUL
CHURCH for MARY

MATER DEI LATIN MASS PARISH

WHY ARE WE BUILDING A NEW CHURCH?

When we purchased this property in 2009, we knew the time would come when the congregation would out-grow the building. *That time is now.* Over the past seven years, Mass attendance has risen steadily and continues to increase. The seating capacity of the current nave is only 300 or roughly 27 percent of the combined Sunday congregation. We are significantly undersized for major feast day celebrations and as the population of the DFW area continues to soar the problem promises to rise as well. History dictates that a new church home brings a parish community enthusiasm, excitement, and more people. It increases the circle of influence, allowing priests the opportunity to increase their impact in the greater community. A larger nave provides additional confessionals, a larger and proper baptistery, acoustics more suited to our needs, a larger choir loft, seating for about 900, real cry rooms with excellent raised seating for the congregation, a bridal room, and appropriate sanctuary and sacristy space.

Why did we hire a professional fundraising firm?

We hired the Steier Group, a national Catholic fundraising firm, to conduct our planning study and guide us in our capital campaign. For 20 years, this organization has conducted fundraising efforts across the country, helping churches, dioceses and other nonprofits raise funds to meet their needs. A capital campaign is a major undertaking, requiring a significant time commitment going well beyond what's expected from a parish staff or volunteers. It is a full-time job which requires implementing a communication plan, coordinating mailings and working with leaders and volunteers. Hiring professional counsel does not guarantee success, but it does give us the best chance to accomplish our goals.

We are a middle-class parish with many young families. How are we going to pay for this without going into significant debt?

One reason we hired the Steier Group to conduct a planning study was to gauge the financial support for our master plan, especially building a new church. The study included examining key factors such as our size and annual funding as well as gathering the

opinion of the entire parish. Based on the planning study's results, the Steier Group advised us to set a fundraising goal of \$2.5 million, over half of the cost of the proposed church building and about one-third of the overall project cost. Reaching this goal will allow us to avoid significant debt, and create the momentum needed to continue raising funds on our own. For any individual or family, the price of this project can seem high. However, if we all come together and make a commitment, we can make this campaign a success.

Is expanding Mater Dei our only option? Why doesn't the diocese create a new Latin Mass Parish instead of Mater Dei expanding?

After working with the finance and parish councils, as well as representatives from the diocese, Father Longua has prayerfully determined that expanding and growing Mater Dei is the best option. The diocese has no plans to open another Latin Mass parish or to establish another Mater Dei location. Enlarging the parish now will put the community in a better position to consider expanding at other locations in the future.