



Campaign Sunday #4
 July 13 & 14, 2019
Flashback Photo Day
 Appreciate our past in photos
 Wear *blue* & your campaign button!

What I can do is ...

- ... pray for the campaign
- ... read the FAQs on the back
- ... prayerfully consider a pledge

We are thankful for ...

- ... Fr. Kiet, our new Parochial Vicar
- ... photos of Flat Thomas' travels
- ... the new volunteers who helped at the campaign booth!

Join us in glorifying Jesus Christ by building a church in His honor!

All summer, visit the campaign booth to make a Flat St. Thomas More figure to take with you on your summer travels. Send us your photos with him by either posting them on **Instagram at #stmirvine** or by emailing them to lisabvanderpe@gmail.com. Flat St. Thomas More is a perfect travel companion since our patron saint was a true family man. Please pray for our parish family while you are away.

Campaign Sundays are meant to remind us of the daily importance of parish life. Many spiritual, formative and fun family events happen here, such as: daily Mass followed by the rosary, Sacramental preparation, Religious Education for all ages, Family Fun Fair, Christ Renews His Parish weekends, Bible studies, pancake breakfasts, Taize prayer and more. **Blessings abound when we invite Jesus to participate in our lives!** Thank you to all the 54 ministries that provide these meaningful events for us all year long!

Next Campaign Sunday Dates:

Aug 17 & 18

Sept 21 & 22

October TBD

Did you know ...

- ... July 1st is our parish anniversary!
- ... This year celebrates 23 years as a parish!
- ... there is a link on our parish website to the campaign webpage.
- ... on the back of this flyer are a few new FAQs with answers. More to come.

Visit the parish website at www.stmirvine.org and click on E-giving to donate to the Believe and Grow Campaign

Lisa VanDorpe, Campaign Chair
lisabvanderpe@gmail.com



St. Thomas More Parish
 51 Market Place, Irvine, CA 92602
 949-551-8601

Answers to Common Campaign Questions:

Many have asked questions about the past “Believe” Campaign (completed) and the current “Believe and Grow Together” Campaign. Listed below are common questions with answers.

1. **Why do we need to build a new church? Our current church building is nice.**

- a. The current church is our parish hall and is meant to be a temporary place of worship. When we moved from the Remington site to our current location, we built the parish hall first with the “Believe” Campaign. The current “Believe and Grow Together” Campaign is to raise money for the permanent church.
- b. The parish hall lacks the elements of a consecrated Catholic church such as a narthex (lobby), confessionals, and baptismal font. The parish is expected to grow and the Diocesan plan for St. Thomas More is to have adequate capacity.

2. **How much will it cost to build the church?**

- a. The estimated amount needed is \$15,400,000.

3. **When will the church be built? I thought we met the goal. Is this a new campaign?**

- a. We anticipate the church being built in 2023/24. It depends on the speed of the fundraising. We do not have enough money at this time.
- b. The “Believe and Grow Together” Campaign began with an understanding that if we raised 50% of the total in cash and pledges, we could take a loan for the remaining amount, continue the campaign, and begin construction. The Diocese changed their policy and they now require the entire construction amount be accounted for with a minimum of 75% in cash and 25% in pledges. Assessment of our loan capacity will occur as we approach these goals.
- c. \$11.6M (75%) is the current cash amount needed with the remaining \$3.8M (25%) needed in pledges.
- d. The current efforts are for the “Believe and Grow Together” Campaign which began in 2017. An average pledge duration of 3 years ends in January 2021.

4. **I have a current pledge. Why should I increase my pledge?**

- a. We didn’t raise enough money in the first round of pledges. New parishioners will add new pledges, but we need existing pledges to increase as well. It’s an honorable task to raise a new Catholic church. We will pray for the Holy Spirit to multiply our efforts.

5. **What if we do not raise enough money?**

- a. Eventually we will raise enough money, but the longer it takes, the more it will cost. A study of our parish demographics revealed we have the financial capacity needed. We plan to increase parish motivation with inspirational messages and prayer.

6. Who is in charge of and who oversees the campaign? Why was there a time delay in campaign efforts and updates?

- a. Fr. John Janze, as our Pastor, is in charge of the campaign. A committee of parishioners oversees the activities and implements the campaign master plan. A fundraising consultant, Steier Group, was hired in 2017 to kick off the current “Believe and Grow Together” Campaign. Their contract has ended and it was for approximately one year.
- b. In 2018, the Steier Group’s contract ended and the committee leadership changed. The master plan was updated since the money needed wasn’t raised. During this time, there was limited campaign messaging to the parish, but work continued. Once the master plan was ready, the committee re-started the public campaign efforts in the spring of 2019.

7. Will the Diocese of Orange contribute money? Does my annual PSA pledge go towards the new church?

- a. The Diocese does not contribute money, but they do support the campaign with direction from their professional staff. Their requirements set the campaign boundaries and they ultimately approve construction.
- b. The annual PSA (Pastoral Services Appeal) amount for each parish is set by the Diocese. In 2019, we met our parish goal and approximately \$33K came back to our parish. Fr. John has designated that all this refund go to the campaign.