

ST. BONAVENTURE CAMPAIGN NEWS

VOLUME 6 • SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

1565 18th Ave., Columbus, Nebraska 68601



A Message from Fr. Mike

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a great response to our capital campaign!

Our *Behold-Believe-Belong* Campaign has generated \$3,491,950 in commitments from 377 households, with almost \$642,000 of pledge payments made to date.

These commitments are the foundation of St. Bonaventure's future, allowing us to proceed with components of our Project 2020 master plan.

And now I have even more good news: *A few generous parishoners have offered a \$200,000 challenge match for the campaign.*

That means every dollar of new pledges (or increases to existing pledges) will be doubled now through September 15, 2017! This challenge has the potential to take our campaign effort past \$4,000,000.

I would love to be able to report to Archbishop Lucas that every family in the parish returned a pledge card. With the busyness of the summer season, campaign materials may have gotten misplaced. If another campaign packet is needed, please call the parish office.

Please keep the future of our parish family and this campaign in your prayers. I am encouraged by the words of Psalm 126: *Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.* We must remember that our good Lord is the master architect of our redemption, our lives, and our parish. We trust His plans and His timing. What a joy to work with you in building the Kingdom and giving glory to God.

May you rejoice in God's creation and be blessed and safe throughout the year.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mike Swanton



From Your Steering Committee

Campaign Co-Chairs Clete and Chris Pillen

"The first time Todd served as an altar boy in 5th grade, I had tears running down my face. I was so proud to see him serving at Mass," Chris Pillen shares. "It was an affirmation that my church was his church. My faith was his faith, and St. Bonaventure was not my parish family, but our parish family."

Chris and Clete Pillen are cradle Catholics. Watching Todd serve Mass was a joyous and proud affirmation of their Catholic upbringing and faith.

Chris grew up attending St. James Catholic Church in Kearney with her three sisters and parents, Colene and Charlie Beck. With a strict Catholic family and a strong connection to the church, it was common in the Beck household to have the priests over for dinner.

Chris called Omaha home as a young adult. In the early 90's her newborn son Todd would be one of the first baptisms at a new parish in southwest Omaha, St. Stephen the Martyr. In moving to Columbus in 1997 and attending Mass at St. Bonaventure, Chris felt an instant connection to Fr. Dan Keller. She noticed how friendly and welcoming the people were at St. Bon's and Chris knew she was home.

In his youth, Clete attended St. Joseph Catholic Church with his two brothers and parents,

Dale and Dorothy Pillen. It was important to Clete's parents that the boys receive a Catholic education, so they attended St. Joseph Elementary School. His parents emphasized the importance of going to church and developing a relationship with our Lord.

St. Bonaventure is home to many in the Pillen family tree, his grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins - all parishioners. For years the Pillen family (like so many other families) has supported and volunteered at St. Bon's.



Clete and Chris Pillen.

(Continued on page 4)

Behold * Believe * Belong

Commitments

Campaign Commitments as of August 15, 2017

Thank you to every parish family for your commitment to Project 2020, including:

Serafin & Leodegaria Adame
Linda Aerni
Martha Aerni
Geraldine Ainsworth
Kyle & Jill Ainsworth
Michael & Kimberly Allen
Troy & Cassie Anderson
Darrell & Darlene Arlt
Tim & Kim Arlt
Agustin Armenta
Joe Barbaglia
Jody Bargaen
Karla Baumert
Al & Maxine Becker
Douglas & Rebecca Behle
Nick & Nicole Behle
Dean & Lana Bell
Kenneth G. & Elizabeth Bender
Timothy & Carol Benson
Rita Berger
Richard & Phyllis Bergland
Alana Berlin
Dolores Bernt
Jim Bernt
Richard & Eva Marie Bernt
David & Tammy Bichlmeier
Larry & Ruth Bierman
Shane & Julie Blaser
Vaughn & Mary Blum
William & Patricia Bogus
Gerald L. & Jane Bonczynski
Michael & Elizabeth Bonk
Brett & Penny Bonwell
Timothy A. & Deanna Brandt
Maxine Bredahl
Lawrence & Katherine Brenner
Leonard & Theresa Brezenski
Janet Brezinski
Louise Bridges
Dolores Bristol
Patrick & Barbara Brockhaus
Marvene Bruner

Richard & Mary Buettner
Jane Buresh
Michelle Byrnes
Mario Caballero & Maria Vega
Royce & Joan Campbell
Charles & Delores Case
Javier & Elizabeth Castillo
Jesus & Maria Castillo
Roberto & Sonia Castillo
Darlene Cattau
Kimberlie A. Cemper
Larry & Laurie Cemper
Evelyn Chittenden
Evangeline Chlopek
Virgil & Elaine Chochon
Joe & Stacy Chohon
Leonard & Louise Chohon
Chris & Janelle Chvala
Ronald Cieloha
Patricia Cimburek
John & Marlene Cimpl
Mildred Cimpl
Tom & Helen Cleary
John & Connie Codling
Tim & Connie Cumberland
Phillip & Elizabeth Czuba
Antulio & Ivonne de Leon
Juan & Glenda de Leon
Doug & Sandi Demuth
John & Elaine Demuth
Anton & Jane Divis
Paul & Joyce Dohmen
Al & Christine Dolezal
Larry Dowd
Mike & Kim Dreesen
Jerome & Carol Duren
Ken & Marlene Ebel
Imelda Eckholt
Lorraine Egger
Gene & Jan Engelbert
Gerry & Kathy Engelbert
Tyler & Jill Erickson

Ron & Ann Ernst
Raymond & Lois Euteneuer
Keith & Susan Evans
Gary & Kathy Ewers
Marcus & Megan Faltys
Pat & Kelly Feehan
Sharon Fisher
Bud & Rita Fleischer
Dean & Judy Foltz
Jan Fremarek
Robert Gablenz
Leonard & Theresa Gabriel
Robert & Marilyn Gangel
Jorge & Miriam Garcia
Moises & Martina Garcia
Clinton Gates
Edgar & Elsa Gates
Sue Gonka
Chad & Liz Gonka
Chuck & Nancy Gonka
Gloria Greger
Dennis & Coni Grennan
Dorothy Gubbels
William & Deborah Gumm
Ray & Cathy Hajek
Jeff & Mary Hall
Dick & Deb Hamling
Randy & Janet Hanson
Al & Rita Hanus
Meg Harry
Gene & Helen Hegemann
Ed & Joan Heimann
Henry & Betty Heimann
John & Julie Heimann
Don & Pat Heimes
John & Jamie Heine
Carleen Sue Henggeler
Dale & Sandra Heth
Dennis & Joyce Hiemer
John & Rita Hoebing
Shirley A. Hoessel
Deanna Hoffman

Donald & Rose Marie Hoffman
Milt & Cathy Hoops
Doris Horne
Aurelia Horta
Jim & Teri Hotovy
Tim & Carla Hottovy
Sylvia Houske-Knowlton
Meghan Hunt
Bob & Maureen Irby
Josh & Tammi Jaeger
Steve & Joan Jahn
Carroll & Beverly Jaixen
Jerry & Cindy Jarecke
Charles & Karen Jasper
Carolyn Jaworski
Matt & Sharee Jedlicka
Dwayne & Toodie Johnson
Ray & Dee Johnson
Boyd & Kate Jones
Ron & Jean Jones
Bernie Kampschnieder
Matt & Kristyn Kamrath
Kathy Karges
Dan & Belinda Keiter
Dianne Keiter
Joe Keiter
Jane Kelly
Eric & Andrea Kloke
Eric & Kim Kluever
Knights Of Columbus #938
Larry & Susi Kobus
Bob & Jane Kobza
Florence Kolm
Brian & Deb Konecky
Kim Korth
Terry & Sue Korth
Aaron & Shannon Kosch
Alois & Wilma Kosch
Jeff & Melissa Kosch
Eugene & Diane Kotrous
Sarah Kracke
Anthony & Kathie Kresha



Campaign Commitments as of August 15, 2017 (Continued)

Deborah Kresha	Jeff & Amy Morton	Dan & Janice Rosenquist	Betty J. Thompson
Irene Kresha	Mike & Jan Moser	Roland & Pat Rueschhoff	Mary Tinius
Joyce Kresha	Joe Motley	Jorge & Yesica Ruiz	Patrick Tinius
Gerald & Diane Krings	Gary & Carri Mowrey	Paul Rupprecht	F. Jane Tooley
Hank & Mary Kay Krings	Mike & Vanora Mulligan	Brett & Angie Rusher	Joe & Jane Tooley
Fred & Debbie Krumland	Jim & Susan Murphy	Bill & Michell Ruskamp	Joy Tooley
Connie Krzycki	Connie Nagengast	Carol Sand	Tim & Janet Tooley
Martha Kunasek	Jim & Lorie Naughtin	Pauline Sander	Jorge & Maria Torres
Alvin & Elaine Kurtenbach	Marie Nelson	Gary & Julie Sansoni	Daniel & Alice Tschantre
Lois Kuta	DeWayne & Barb Nicolas	Randy & Lela Schaecher	Jim & Brenda Tubbs
Merlin & Joan Lahm	Rich & Marge Nosal	Gary & Marilyn Schaefer	Ronald & Rita Tuma
Mark & Dee Landholm	Mildred Novak	Tim & Jeanne Schieffer	Eugene Tworek
Mark & Sharon Leif	Christine O'Connor	Orville Schmit	Mike & Elaine Tworek
Mike & Michele Lenihan	Dorothy O'Kane	Mike & Diane Schneider	Augie & Sue Valenzuela
Milan & Linda Levos	Jeff & Deb Ohnoutka	Steve & Denise Schnieders	Carroll & Barbara Van Dyke
Imelda Loeffler	Luis & Angelica Ortiz	Joe & Joann Schuele	Dick & Joan Van Dyke
Michael & Jan Loeffler	Mario & Oliva Ortiz	John & Deborah Schueth	Lyle Vancura
Kathleen Lohr	Duane & Kim Ostdiek	David & Beth Schulte	Louis & Rose Vanek
Judith Loseke	Mike & Angie Ostdiek	Patricia Scow	Duane & Phyllis Vavra
Adrian Madrigal & Manuela	Tyson & Jasper Owens	Dale & Michelle Sell	Bob Voboril
Mendoza	Tim & LeAnn Parker	Delores Sempek	Jerome & Terri Wagner
J. Ines & Margarita Madrigal	Josafat & Maria Pedroza	Pedro & Antonia Serrano	Tami & Travis Weber
Mike & Mary Maguire	Jack & Jane Pekny	Gerilyn Shanle	Donna Welch
Norma Marino	Richard & Bea Pensick, Sr.	Chuck & Betty Siegel, Jr.	Laura Wemhoff
Susan Mark	Dave & Wendi Petersen	Thomas Siegel	Bob & Lee White
Virginia Martin	Marv & Rose Peterson	Mike Siemek	John & Linda Whitehead
Mark & Becky Massman	Mary Peterson	Paul & Nancy Siemek	Cathy Wibbels
Michael & Patricia Matteo	Theresa Petr	Amanda Simons	Darren Wiese
Dave & Lisa McElhose	Ray & Mike Pilakowski	Larry & Mary Sindelar	Gerry & Christine Wiese
Marion Meister	Clete & Chris Pillen	Cecelia Skalak	Joyce Wieser
Judy Melcher	Ron & Jeanette Pinger	Stella Sleddens	Ken & Judy Wieser
Karen Melcher	Ambrose & Helen Podraza	Dean & Colleen Soulliere	Tom & Tami Williams
Brent & Carmen Melliger	Mary Lou Podraza	Kathy Soulliere	Joan Witt
Francisco & Ana Mendez	Phil & Mary Powers	Bob & Michelle Soulliere	Margaret Witt
Jacquelyn Menke	Mike & Ruth Preister	Art Spinner	Norman Witt
Delvin & Debbie Micek	Dale & Diane Pudenz	Walter E. & Lyn Starostka	John & Mary Kay Wlaschin
Isabelle Micek	Jim & Judy Puetz	Bud Steiner	Terry & Peggy Wojcik
Joe & Gina Micek	Tony & Jeanne Raimondo, Sr.	Ken & Kathy Steiner	Marc W. Wolfe
Jason & Lynn Mielak	George & Lynne Rambour, IV	Richard & Gwen Steiner	David & Peggy Wolff
Larry & Marie Mielak	Lenore Rambour	Valeria Steiner	Evelyn Wolpert
Howard & Ella Milburn	Mike & Cheryl Rambour	George & Glenda Steinsberger	Mary Wright
Dennis & Kay Miller	Jarrold & Ashley Ridder	Louise Stopak	Eldon Wurdinger
Jon & Jane Misfeldt	Gregg & Shelly Ridgeway	Dean & Debra Svehla	Verl & Kristine Wurtz
Susan Mitchem	Clayton & Cassie Rief	Larry & Marlene Svoboda	Jack & Paula Young
Tom & Jan Molczyk	Marv & Gloria Rinkol	Jerrad & Angela Swanson	Joel & Mary Young
Gustavo & Solangel Montes	Dennis & Connie Ritter	Mike & Sharon Swanson	Larry & Jane Zach
Barb Moore	Mark & Kristen Robak	Fr. Mike Swanton	Milt & Kathy Zadina
Doug & Michelle Moore	Mauricio & Maria Rocha	Bill Swantz	Steve & Carolyn Zakrzewski
James & Joyce Moore	Milton & Joan Roddy	Joseph Swirczek	Ron & Shirley Zegar
Joe & Rosemary Moore	Concepcion Rodriguez	Joe & Shirley Szatko	Ron & Peg Ziola
Juan & Ana Morales	Mark & Tammie Romberg	Richard & Rose Ternes	Troy & Elaine Zoucha
Theresa Morrison	Arturo & Teresa Romo	John & Kelli Thomazin	

If we have inadvertently left your name off of this list, please accept our sincere apology and contact the parish office with this correction.

Thank you.

MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

In only a few weeks, our *Behold-Believe-Belong* capital campaign has generated almost \$3,500,000 in cash and pledges.

A unique challenge now encourages other families to return their pledge cards by September 15. In this challenge, generous parishioners have offered to match every pledge made or increased by September 15, dollar for dollar, up to \$200,000.

With this matching challenge, a new pledge of \$5,000 would, in effect, add \$10,000 to the campaign. For those who have already committed, any increase in your pledge would also be matched. This challenge makes raising over \$4,000,000 a real possibility.

For those who might have misplaced their commitment card or campaign packet, please contact Diane in the parish office.

Clete and Chris Pillen

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While he worked and lived away from Columbus for some time, Clete returned in 2000 and soon, like the Pillen family in the past, re-engaged and got involved in the parish. "It seemed natural to attend St. Bon's (my grandparents' home church) because that's what I knew growing up. This parish was home back then and it's still home now."

Chris and Clete were introduced by mutual friends in April of 2000 and instantly hit it off. Chris adds, "for both of us, it was love at first sight." Clete promised the friend that introduced them, that he would give Chris a call. Clete did make that call, began dating Chris and as they say, the rest is history; they were married on January 27, 2001.

The marriage was, in a way a merger in Christ of two families. Both Chris and Clete were previously married. Chris had one son Todd, while Clete has three sons John, Mark and David. They are blessed with two wonderful daughters-in-law, and three (soon to be four) grandchildren.

Although finding the true love of his life, his strict Catholic upbringing would not allow Clete to take communion until his previous marriage was annulled. "It was important to me to honor the law of the church, no matter how difficult." He adds, "When you're not able to take the sacraments, you realize what the church really means to you."

With the annulment complete, their marriage was blessed this past January by their good friend and pastor, Fr. Mike Swanton.

Just as their families had in the past,

Chris and Clete remain devoted and committed to their parish family. Chris has served as an officer in the St. Bon's Home & School Association, MOMS group and Ladies of the Lord.

Clete has served on the parish council. He currently sits on the finance board, sings in the men's choir and serves on Project 2020.

They have been an integral part of the *Behold. Believe. Belong* capital campaign. They are thankful for the campaign process. "This campaign provided an opportunity to get involved and to meet new parishioners and reconnect with old friends. It has allowed us to grow in our relationship in knowing the Lord our God, and it has provided the financial impetus toward the Project 2020 master plan."

Clete and Chris understand and embrace what is at stake for St. Bonaventure in this campaign, in Project 2020 and for the future of the church in Columbus. Chris shares, "with the potential closing of rural parishes, St. Bon's needs to be ready to welcome and accommodate new parishioners. Project 2020 allows us to prepare to be that welcoming parish that we all once joined."

The Pillen's ask every family to be a part of this campaign and Project 2020. Clete shares, "my grandparents, and many before them, built and left their legacy to us. Their vision and sacrifice is the St. Bonaventure we know today. Just as we honor church law, we are called to honor that legacy and the way to truly honor it, is to be a part of it."

From Your Building Committee

Project 2020 Update

Since late June, when we kicked off the official start of Project 2020 for you, St. Bonaventure's parishioners, we have shared the video and slideshow presentations numerous times and come together to discuss what the church and school could look like. Giving you an opportunity to see, hear and ask questions about this important project is so important to the success of our Parish and this project. A big THANK YOU goes to the hundreds of wonderful volunteers who made these informational campaign events a huge success.

We sincerely thank all of the generous parishioners who have turned in their pledge cards. You are making the future of our Parish possible! While we have 1,700 families registered as St. Bonaventure with the Archdiocese, the pledges made have come from our active church families – a family we want to grow. The contributions made to date have helped St. Bonaventure realize its most successful campaign in parish history, raising over three times the amount of our last campaign. And we've only just begun!

As the pledges continue to come in, Project 2020 wants to focus on "what we will do?" Where should we start to make our vision a reality?

Fr. Mike, the building committee and our architectural consultant (BCDM) are beginning the assessment process to determine what parts of the Project 2020 Master Plan we can now initiate, and in what order. As these plans are developed we will keep the parish informed with a combination of updates in the weekly bulletins, postings to the parish website and announcements at Mass.

Ultimately, the campaign pledge total will be a determining factor in this process. So we ask those who have not responded to this parish effort to look into your hearts and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you decide - and then act - on your commitment.

As "one body" we will lay the foundation for a bright future. God Bless you for your support of our wonderful St. Bonaventure Parish family!