

Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
 — Ephesians 3:20-21

A Message from Father Connell

Dear Parish Family:

I am very excited to announce that Our Lady of La Salette parish is joining Archbishop Vigneron in the **Changing Lives Together Initiative**. At a time when our community needs it most, the **Changing Lives Together Initiative** will strengthen our parish, and most importantly, bring us closer to one another through fellowship and faith. To ensure that we are able to continue to do the Lord's work, we are about to embark on an ambitious, but realistic stewardship campaign. I join Archbishop Vigneron in his prayerful belief that one of the greatest blessings of this initiative is the opportunity to change our own lives by coming together as a parish and an Archdiocesan community in Christ.

My enthusiasm in sharing this exciting news with you is second only to my eagerness to personally work with each of you to utilize your time, talent and treasure to strengthen Our Lady of La Salette, grow a stronger Archdiocese of Detroit and change lives through Christ.

In the weeks ahead, you will receive much more information on **Changing Lives Together**. When you are asked to join the effort, I hope you will accept the call to get involved. In the meantime, please feel free to learn more about the initiative by visiting www.aodclt.org or call the parish office at (248) 541-3762.

Please join us in this great endeavor.

Rev. Patrick J. Connell

Let's Change Lives Together

The **Changing Lives Together Initiative** is all about how Our Lady of La Salette and the entire Archdiocese of Detroit can work together as the Body of Christ name to truly change lives for the better in Southeast Michigan. Whether it's bringing just one more person back into the flock, helping one more child get a Catholic education or keeping our important parish programs running smoothly through your gifts of time, talent and treasure, everyone needs to do something to help change lives.

Changing Lives Together is a parish-driven, archdiocesan-wide initiative that will create a stronger future for the 1.4 million Catholics living, working and worshipping in our six-county Archdiocese by:

- Strengthening every parish in the Archdiocese – including Our Lady of La Salette
- Strengthening Catholic education – so that every child who wants a Catholic education can receive one.
- Strengthening priestly and diaconal formation and lay leadership – so there are enough trained leaders in our Archdiocese to minister to all who need to hear Christ's word and live as He would have us to live
- Strengthening the Church in the City of Detroit – establish a fund to provide grants to underwrite struggling ministries and programs that are vital to the mission of the Catholic Church.



Together We Can Do More

Do you ask yourself, “what difference can I make, I am only one person?” God has often taken people of humble beginnings and led them to do profound work in His name. A young virgin of little means became the Blessed Mother. A fisherman left all possessions behind and became an apostle. Over and over again, God has taken the least of us and done great and wonderful things. Think of what you can do with all that you have available to you now.

Multiply what you can do alone by all the Catholics in our Archdiocese and the results will be astounding.

Together, if each of us contributes a little more of our time, talent and treasure, we can change lives all around us. We can make sure that Our Lady of La Salette is a beacon in our community, drawing those who thirst for redemption into the light of Christ’s love. We can make sure that every child who wishes

is able to attend a Catholic school. We can make sure that more priests, deacons and lay leaders are equipped with the knowledge they need to bring the Word to those who yearn to hear it. Each person who gives of themselves adds strength to our vision for the Catholic Church in Southeast Michigan. Each who gives receives so much in return. Not only are you changing the lives of others, you are enriching and changing your own life.

Our Changing Lives Together Team

The success of Our Lady of La Salette’s **Changing Lives Together** Initiative will rely on participation from all our parish family. We would like to say a special thanks to those who have already given of their time and talent and said “yes!” when called.

Campaign Chairs:

Rich Lynch
Mark and Laura Mastracci

Advance Commitment:

Doug Hebert

Campaign Administrator:

Cindy Jaeger

Children’s Activity Leaders:

Bridget Nemzek
Dan Terbrack

Contact Team Leaders:

Jim and Meg Bowker
Patricia Grundy
Mary Lackamp
Lorraine Remington
Eric Riedy

Information Leaders:

Tom LeBay
Ed Szykula
Randy Wells

Pacesetter Leaders:

Father Patrick J. Connell
Deacon Dan Darga
Kathy Fox

Prayer Leaders:

Dan Irwin
Susan Oswald

Print Communications:

Dave and Jeanine Dunaj

Special Event Leaders:

Susan Daigle
Mary Tuck
Gail Waldrup

Visual Communications:

Chris Guyor

Youth Leaders:

Bob Doppel
Caryn MacDonald

Not Equal Gifts, but Equal Sacrifice

We will be joining the other parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit as we explore the spirituality of stewardship together.

Changing Lives Together is about doing Christ's work and sharing His word in a way that impacts the lives of others as well as our own. In order to do this simple and profound work, everyone must do their part.

Contributing your time, your talent and your treasure is not about giving gifts equal to that of your neighbor, but in giving equal sacrifice. This idea

comes from the Bible's teaching about proportionate giving and the blessings of sacrifice. No gift impresses God in terms of dollar amounts given, number of hours spent or amount of talent provided. God looks at gifts as an extension of the love and obedience with which they are given and proportion of resources from which they come. God, in other words, looks at the heart. Please join us in prayer, study and worship.

Begin now to pray that God will

guide Our Lady of La Salette and leave Christ's imprint on individual hearts. Ask God to keep us on the path of obedience and trust. Pray that the **Changing Lives Together Initiative** will accomplish what it is meant to do: to focus our vision on God's work and keep us aware of the privilege of our part in it. Please remember that your experience with personal sacrifice is not a one-time check or contribution, but a profound way of giving through your time, talent and treasure.

Our Goals for Our Lady of La Salette

As a stewardship parish, we have many important priorities that we need to support. In order to lift our community, help those in need, support our Catholic schools and do all the good work we do, we also need to make sure we have a strong parish that is able to pay down our debt and meet our expenses. This will allow us to continue to do all we are doing in His name. With the **Changing Lives Together Initiative**, we will specifically strengthen Our Lady of La Salette by:

- ✚ Reducing our current parish debt
- ✚ Improving the infrastructure of our parish
- ✚ Introducing our children to stewardship and helping

them find ways to express their enthusiasm for God and their parish family

- ✚ Strengthening our individual Catholic identity

Our **Changing Lives Together** leadership team is working to discern our parish's top priorities. Over the next few weeks we will be putting together a plan that makes the most sense for all of us and meets our most pressing needs. Pray on what you can do to help us change lives in our parish and our community together. And feel free to contact one of the **Changing Lives Together** Leadership team with your thoughts on how we can all **Change Lives Together**.

"...But each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you..."
— Deuteronomy 16:17



Sow. Reap. Rejoice.

"...In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
(Acts 20:35)

You Have Been Called

Will you help us CHANGE LIVES TOGETHER?

The success of our **Changing Lives Together Initiative** depends on **you**.

In the coming months, hundreds of fellow parishioners will dedicate their time, talent and treasure in an effort to make Our Lady of La Salette and the entire Archdiocese of Detroit a stronger, better place for people to receive Christ's blessings. But, they can't do it alone.

Please say "yes" when contacted by members of the leadership team. It will take all of us together, in equal sacrifice, to make this initiative a success. We hope to create life changing experiences as we all come together in Christ's name to do His work. Please respond and help us make the **Changing Lives Together Initiative** a success so Our Lady of La Salette can achieve our full potential in body, mind and soul.

Questions to ask yourself:

If not this, WHAT?

If not here, WHERE?

If not now, WHEN?

If not me, WHO?



Dates to Remember:

Campaign Kick-Off – January 15th and 16th, 2011

Commitment Weekend – April 2nd and 3rd, 2011

Celebration Weekend – April 16th and 17th, 2011