



“Give and gifts will be given to you . . . For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” — Luke 6:38



A Message From The Our Lady of La Salette Changing Lives Together Leadership

Dear La Salette Family,

We have answered the call to serve as Campaign Chairs for **Changing Lives Together**. We love La Salette and want to encourage you to join us in this initiative. We rely on our parish community of La Salette as a place to worship, have fun, and help one another. We think that you do, too.

In some cases, the more correct statement may be that you used to think so. For any number of reasons, it appears that many parishioners have become less active in the parish. We want to change that. We also want to encourage you to come back to regular attendance at Mass and parish functions.

Since your name is on our parish registration list, we consider you part of our parish family. We believe that, by growing together through this campaign, and working and worshipping together long after it is completed, we can strengthen our parish and keep it healthy, vibrant, and growing for our children and grandchildren.

God is ever-faithful and all-loving. He has given each of us unique gifts and experiences that will allow us to build an unstoppable Body of Christ. Please spend time in prayer regarding this initiative and your rightful place within our community. Join us in our scheduled events of praying and sharing, for the benefit of our local parish and the greater diocesan church family. Have faith and accept God’s challenge to change lives, most importantly your own!

In Christ,

Richard Lynch

Mark & Laura Mastracci



Transforming Our Parish, Our Community and Our Lives

*“While we have the opportunity, let us do good to all — but especially those who belong to the family of faith.”
— Galatians 6:10*



A Message from
Archbishop Vigneron

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am pleased to announce that after much prayer and consultation with pastors and lay leaders across the Archdiocese of Detroit, we have developed a plan to help stabilize our parishes and schools and to strengthen the training, education and resources available to our priests and lay leaders. I ask that you join our priests, our lay leaders, and me in Changing Lives Together, an archdiocesan-wide, parish-based initiative that will fortify our Faith and our Catholic Church in Southeast Michigan. Our goal is to raise \$135 million so that together we might do the following:

- Strengthen Parishes
- Strengthen Catholic Education
- Strengthen Priestly Formation and Lay Leadership
- Strengthen the Church in the City

My vision for the Archdiocese of Detroit, keeping Christ at the center of all we do, is that the 1.4 million Catholics in Southeast Michigan will come together in these challenging times and, made strong with Christ's promise that He is at work within us, we will change lives — starting with our own. By engaging in Changing Lives Together, each one of us will have a new opportunity to answer God's call to each of us to lives of greater holiness. Over the next three years, your parish, as well as our schools, priests and lay leaders, will become stronger through your faithfulness and your involvement.

All of this begins with you. I ask you to consider prayerfully your commitment to Changing Lives Together. Your parish and the whole Archdiocese need your time and talent in order that the Changing Lives Together Initiative may be as fruitful as possible in your parish. And we need your help to raise the financial resources necessary to strengthen our community of Faith in ways that will endure for generations to come.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit



Strengthening Catholic Education

"I didn't realize the magnitude"

I took my Catholic education for granted. People would ask me if I thought it made a difference in my life. I always said, "Yes," but I didn't realize the magnitude. Recently, I was volunteering with a group of people at our parish who regularly lend a hand and we realized that we'd all gone to Catholic schools. At that moment I fully understood that a Catholic education establishes a foundation for the connection between my gifts and doing His work. My prayer is that every child has access to that rich experience.



Strengthening Priestly Formation and Leadership

"I realized how many lives he affected"

A key moment on my way to the seminary was when the pastor of our parish passed away when I was in my final year of high school. He was a holy, wise and faithful priest. I remember altar serving at his funeral, seeing that the church was filled and remembering how many lives he affected. He made a difference in the lives of so many people. All through college I prayed about my vocation and finally went on a discernment weekend at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. After praying with the priests and seminarians, I was ready to apply. My time at Sacred Heart has been wonderful and my desire to become a priest has only increased. My prayer is that I will accomplish God's will for me. I want to dedicate my entire life to doing the Lord's will and serving his Church.

Strengthening the Church in the City

"Christ called me to invite him"

I fully believe that "what we do for the least among us, we do for Him," but I still find myself walking past people who clearly need help. Last week I walked past such a man on my way into our parish. Christ called me to invite him to come to Mass, so I pushed past my apprehensions and asked. Although I couldn't convince him to join us, he thanked me three times and said, "God bless you." I was deeply moved by his prayer for blessings on me, especially after my initial fears that his needs were too great for me to meet. I will continue to invite him. My prayer is that each of us will experience the blessing that comes from reaching past fear to do His work, daily.



How Will Christ Move You to Change a Life?

Sow. Your commitment to **Changing Lives Together** is an act of faith that will sow seeds of spiritual fortitude throughout Southeast Michigan. Our parish, our faith and our communities will be transformed, one affirmation at a time. Here are just a few affirmations of lives changed. **Reap. Rejoice.**



Strengthen Our Individual Catholic identity

As Catholic Christians, we belong to the global church and our diocesan church. We worship and serve in our local parish community. We are proud of the traditions and history of La Salette in Berkley, and we are hopeful for a strong presence into the future. God has blessed us with His goodness. We are eager to spread the good news of our faith, to increase the numbers of people who worship and serve with us and to give back to God in the measure with which we have been blessed. When life events distract us from our faith, we want to be inspiration and encouragement to each other. Ideally, each of us will use Changing Lives Together as a tool to reinvigorate our faith and our parish, as we recommit to walk with Christ.

Introduce Our Children to Stewardship and Help Them Find Ways to Express Their Enthusiasm for God and Their Parish Family

We belong to a historic, multi-generational parish. The parish was built by the prayers and sacrifices of our parents and grandparents and individuals just like them. We bear the responsibility of passing the gifts of our faith and our parish to the next generation. Our homes are the places where our children's introduction to God begins. Our parish home, Our Lady of La Salette, is the place where it continues.

Just as we teach our children to understand the finances of our individual family situations, it is important to teach them that our church is also a building that must be maintained. We will develop opportunities for our children and youth to share their time, talent and treasure with La Salette so that our parish community and its plant and facilities may continue to exist for future generations.



We Will Change Lives if We Stand Together

Changing Lives Together Initiative Priorities

Changing Lives Together will strengthen the future of the Catholic Church in Southeast Michigan in these ways:

Strengthen All 274 Parishes.....\$95,000,000
Each parish will reflect on its unique needs and opportunities and develop its own plan.

Strengthen Catholic Education and Faith Formation\$15,000,000
Supplement our existing endowment for tuition assistance for Catholic students that has already provided more than \$35 million to students in the last 15 years.

Strengthen Priestly Formation and Future Leadership\$8,000,000
Provide life-long training and support for the ongoing education and formation of our priests. This will increase funding for the education and formation of our seminarians and lay men and women preparing for Church ministry.

Strengthen the Church in the City\$4,000,000
Establish a fund for the Church in the City of Detroit that will provide grants to support parish ministries and programs that have difficulty sustaining their work but are viewed as vital to the ongoing witness, mission and presence of the Church in the City.

Changing Lives Together Expenses.....\$13,000,000
Materials, postage and professional expenses to launch and sustain this 274-parish, archdiocesan-wide, five-year initiative.

Changing Lives Together Goal\$135,000,000

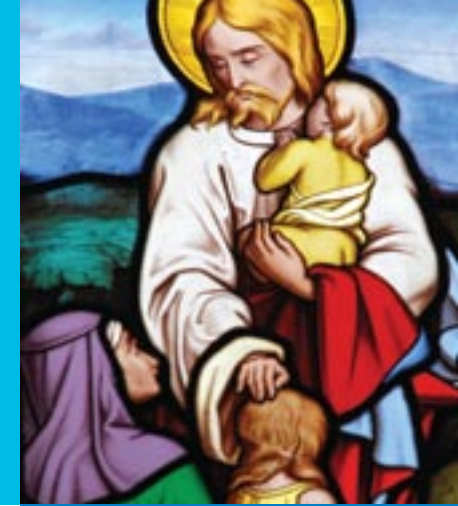
"I was cutting off my greatest support"

The stress of all the layoffs at work caused me to cut back on giving and retreat into mindless escapes like hours of evening TV instead of engaging with my wife and kids. After finally getting tired of the nagging feeling in my gut that I was cutting off my greatest support — my family and my parish — I cancelled the cable and started giving the money to the Church. Now I go to work each day overflowing with the peace of knowing that God has the reins, which allows me to do my job better. My prayer is that everyone can hand their money burdens over to Christ and find the peace that comes with total faith.





Join Us In Changing Lives Together



Dear Friend in Christ,

At every time and in every place, God gives His people a vision. I believe that this vision is God's gift to us. When we receive this gift, it inspires us to live according to God's plan for our lives. It also leads us to work together to build the Kingdom of God here on earth.

The gift of God's vision also offers us many opportunities. It is my conviction that the **Changing Lives Together** capital stewardship campaign is a special door of opportunity for all of us at La Salette. Through this gateway, we have the ability to provide for the ministries of our parish for generations to come. This brochure introduces you to the vision of our parish and the opportunity God invites us to enter.

Please take the time to study this brochure. Do this in a spirit of prayer and listening. Ask the questions: "Lord, what do You want to do through me? How can I help further the vision of Our Lady of La Salette Parish and the entire Archdiocese of Detroit?"

Pray that God will give you clarity about His will for you and your family. Pray that you will come to know how you can commit yourself to this opportunity to offer yourself for the sake of something eternal here at La Salette. Then, in faith, follow the Lord's leadership.

This brochure will assist you in your spiritual journey. May God bless you and all the people of our parish as we begin this season of prayer, reflection and commitment. It will be exciting to discover the great things God has in store for us as we say "yes" to this new door of great opportunity and work at **Changing Lives Together** as faithful followers of Jesus!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Connell

Our Parish Goals



Church Under Construction - 1962

By now, you have had the opportunity to read The La Salette News and know that our parish goals are:

- Reduce our current parish debt;
- Improve the infrastructure of our parish;
- Strengthen our individual Catholic identity; and
- Introduce our children to stewardship and help them find ways to express their enthusiasm for God and their parish family.

Over the upcoming weeks, we will address these issues in detail. For now, we would like to take a moment to discuss these goals with you.

Reduce Our Current Parish Debt

Our Lady of La Salette carries an outstanding debt to the Archdiocese of Detroit. A decade ago, the balance was \$707,135.77. As of November 30, 2010, despite a decade long regional slowdown that blossomed into the worst recession since the Great Depression, we had reduced the balance to \$263,803.26.

Clearly, this is a large financial obligation. It also directly impacts both current and future planning and programming within the parish. Changing Lives Together is designed to help the parish eliminate this debt through the sharing formula established for this initiative. The basic formula provides for 70% of the funds to go to the parish with the remaining 30% dedicated to specific Archdiocesan programs. However, for parishes with an Archdiocesan debt, like Our Lady of La Salette, three quarters of the parish's share will be used to reduce the debt. In short, our success in this campaign will liberate Our Lady of La Salette from the limitations the debt imposes.

Improve The Infrastructure Of Our Parish

With the debt in mind, we gathered a list of some of the recent projects performed throughout the parish campus over the past decade. Liturgical services were enhanced by a new baptismal font, hymnals, Sunday's Word for the pews each year, annual organ tuning and repairs, and a few pieces of new music each year for the adult choirs and the youth chorus. The enhancements cost approximately \$45,000. Campus facilities were improved with asbestos abatement in the school, door and window replacement, heating and cooling repairs and updates, and elevator repairs. Maintenance costs exceeded \$240,500. Each of these items improved our physical plant and made for a better, safer campus. Snow removal and lawn maintenance cost over \$140,200, but are essential to maintain and provide access to campus facilities. Then utilities enter the picture. Electricity, gas, water, and trash removal cost \$1,127,800 – but we cannot operate without these services.