



# The St. Agnes Catholic Community

“Today’s celebration is more than an occasion of gratitude for graces received. It is also a summons to move forward with firm resolve; to build a future of hope for coming generations.”

Pope Benedict XVI  
Yankee Stadium,  
April 20, 2008



St. Agnes Catholic Community:  
Embracing Jesus’ suffering love  
for all,  
and making it visible  
in worship, service  
formation and education.

## “It’s Not Supposed to Hurt There”



From our Pastor  
Jack Conley, C.P.

Many of us maintain a rhythm of an annual check-up with our primary care physicians. At these visits, there is often an exchange of probing and prodding, all the while the doctor asking, “Does this hurt? How about this?”

We’re likely to be reminded of our own responsibility for personal care. References to good nutrition, adequate rest, and physical exercise can leave us a little uneasy if we’ve been remiss. With the dialogue of poking and pressing, if you cry out in pain, one of two things has likely happened. Either the doctor has pushed too hard, without the right sensitivity, or, more likely, there’s something wrong, and the doctor will say, “We’d better do some more tests. It’s not supposed to hurt there like that.”

So it is when a pastor reminds us of our stewardship responsibility, and some cry out in discomfort, criticizing the message and the messenger. Either the pastor has pushed too hard, or perhaps there is something wrong. In that case, we are in need of the Great Physician, because it’s not supposed to hurt there like that.

In a statement of introduction from the Archdiocesan Campaign Packet two years ago, we read that the first goal of all our efforts is to “deepen the spiritual life of parishes and parishioners through an enhanced prayer and stewardship formation process.” Archbishop Kurtz reiterated

this in his January 16, 2009 letter to pastors: “We have stated from the beginning that the spiritual renewal of parishioners and parishes is the first of our primary campaign goals.”

I am most grateful to our Campaign Co-Chairs, Steve Ford and Jim Tougher, and their great team. They have faithfully challenged and nurtured us all in this call to spiritual development.

As you know, the financial goal of the Archdiocese is \$66,000,000, with at least half of that amount to be distributed to individual parishes. As I mentioned last week, here at St. Agnes, after a comprehensive discernment process, we have opted to forward our share of our \$1.8 million goal to four familiar and well-deserving charities: Hand-in-Hand Ministries, Community Catholic Center, the St. Agnes Council of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, and a Sister Parish to yet be determined.

We will keep you informed with various newsletters and brochures. God bless you!

Give to the Most High ☐  
as He has given ☐  
to you.

## “Not Equal Gifts, but Equal Sacri-

During the next few months, we will join all the parishes in the Archdiocese of Louisville as we explore the spirituality of stewardship together.

The simple and profound theme that underscores *Building a Future of Hope* comes from the Bible’s teaching about proportionate giving and the blessings of sacrifice. Gifts do not impress God in terms of dollar amounts, but as extensions of the love and obedience with which they are given, as well as the proportion of resources from which they come. God, in other words, looks on the heart.

Please join us in prayer, study, and worship. Begin now to pray that God will guide our parish and leave Christ’s imprint on individual hearts. Ask God to keep us on this path of obedience and trust. Pray that the *Building a Future of Hope* effort 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 to explore and deepen the gift of giving.



## More Information Coming in April

Your time is valuable and limited, so we have designed a packet containing several important items that describe the Building a Future of Hope campaign. Each packet contains a letter from Father Jack and your campaign team, a Building a Future of Hope prayer card, a question slip, and devotional material. Every family in the parish will receive one of these packets so you won’t have to attend extra meetings to obtain this information. Packets will be available on the weekend of April 17/18. Please pick up your packet when you attend liturgy that weekend. This will help us save time and reduce postage costs. If you are unable to pick up the packet at church, we will mail one to you. Once you receive your packet, please look over its contents, discuss this project as a family, and make praying the Building a Future of Hope prayer part of your daily routine. If you have questions, please write them on the question slips provided and return them to the parish office. We want to hear from you and address your questions.

## Please Say “Yes!”

In the coming months, hundreds of fellow parishioners will dedicate their time and talents in an effort to inform the whole parish of the challenge before us as we undertake the *Building a Future of Hope Capital Stewardship Campaign*. All we need is trust and faith in God and openness to the Holy Spirit ...and **you**.

The teams listed below will soon be enlisting members to help with our campaign. When you are asked to become a part of this campaign team, please say “Yes!”

**Callers:** Team members will be asked to phone a minimal amount of parish households three times during the campaign to alert the parish to campaign activities. No one will be asked to talk about pledges.

**Children/Youth Activities:** These teams will plan and implement activities and special events for the parish youth.

**Information:** This team will prepare and distribute information packets to each parish household.

**Prayer Team:** This team designs the prayer context and prays for every aspect of our entire campaign.

**Special Event:** Team members plan and make all arrangements for the Special Events.

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## I Want to Help!

I want to join the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Team Name)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Please place in the *Building a Future of Hope* Drop Boxes, Collection Baskets, or take or mail to the Parish Office.)

For more information, please contact Scott Karem at <scott@scottkarem.com>.

