DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

St. Thomas More University Parish is participating in One Church, Many Disciples, along with every church in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. This first ever major campaign will build a Shrine for Blessed Stanley Rother, support faith formation ministries, and strengthen local parishes, including St. Thomas More. We join with faithful from across the archdiocese who are also helping to ensure our local Church is strong and vibrant for generations to come.

As an archdiocese, we form a faith community of 200,000 Catholics in central and western Oklahoma; we truly are One Church, Many Disciples! With the Beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother, each of us has the opportunity to share in his legacy. What an occasion to live Jesus’ call to missionary discipleship.

Please take a moment to review the impact One Church, Many Disciples will have on St. Thomas More. This campaign has my full support and, as your pastor, I hope you will embrace this opportunity here at St. Thomas More University Parish.

Fr. Jim

Rev. James Goins

PARISH ROOTS

On November 7th, 1926, the “graceful little Gothic building” that still stands at 717 West Boyd in Norman was dedicated as Mater Admirabilis Chapel, a Catholic church to serve University of Oklahoma students, faculty and staff. On November 7th, 2016, members and friends of St. Thomas More University Parish and Student Center remembered this landmark event with Mass at our current location on Jenkins Avenue, followed by a reception at the original location, now privately owned and known as “The Chouse.”

In 1976, St. Thomas More contracted with Raymond Yeh, a faculty member in the University’s College of Architecture, to design a new Catholic center on property at the corner of Jenkins and Stinson. On September 23, 1979, Archbishop Charles Salatka dedicated the new home of St. Thomas More University Parish and Student Center.

Today, more than 118,000 people call Norman home; 27,000 students study on the Norman campus and it is estimated that around 4,000 undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff identify as Catholic. Not only have the numbers increased but the interest in being a part of this faith community continues to grow.
PARISH MISSION

Here at St. Thomas More, we’re trying to create a culture of discernment. As a University Parish and Student Center, we minister to young college students who often hear their calling while they are in college. Are they called to married life? Are they called to some sort of service to the church or the world in general? Are they called to seminary? Are they called to the consecrated religious life? Our efforts here in ministry and in supporting students are trying to help them find a place in which they can hear the call of God in their life, and then give them the spiritual resources and strength they need to answer the call.

OUR CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

We now have an excellent opportunity to participate in One Church, Many Disciples. Through participating in this campaign, St. Thomas More University Parish will raise significant funds towards the current needs of our beloved community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve our goal of $1,080,000. St. Thomas More will receive 20% of all funds raised up to the goal, totaling $216,000. In addition, 50% of every dollar raised above our goal will be returned to our parish.

OUR SHARE OF THE FUNDS

Through the One Church, Many Disciples campaign, we will not only play a significant role in this historic moment of our archdiocese, but we will also be able to support exciting new projects here at St. Thomas More. Our share of the funds raised in this campaign effort will help to retire any remain debt from the construction costs of the new parish church building. All additional funds will then go towards seed money for the refurbishment of our pipe organ. The organ was donated to the parish, however, will require funds to refurbish, install, and tune it before it can be used in the new church.

Retire Debt:
The first priority is to retire any debt from construction of the new parish

Pipe Organ:
Remaining funds will be used as seed money to refurbish the pipe organ