A Letter from Father David Whitestone

Dear Friends,

"Give thanks to God the Father, through His Son, in the Holy Spirit, who, on account of the great mercy with which He has loved us, has been merciful to us; and when we were dead in our sins He made us to live again together in Christ, so that in Him we might be a new creation... O Christian, acknowledge your worth! Remember the Head and the Body of which you are a member. Recall that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and have been transferred in the light of the kingdom of God."

These words preached by Pope Saint Leo the Great over fifteen hundred years ago still express clearly the reality of the Catholic Christian life. We acknowledge first, that by the Lord's great love and mercy we are transformed and made new and are constantly renewed. We remember and recall that we have been made members of the Body of Christ and so even now share with Him and with one another in His Kingdom.

The greatest treasure of the Church is her people who are made instruments of love in and for the world by the Love of Christ. And so we look back in gratitude to God and to the men and women who through their dedication and generosity have made Saint Leo parish what it is today. We are a strong, diverse community filled with the Holy Spirit, living out the Catholic faith every day to the best of our ability.

Fifteen years ago a capital campaign was conducted to update and upgrade the buildings on our parish campus. Some, but not all, of the proposed projects were funded or completed. Now with the additional results of time and use, those unfunded and uncompleted projects as well as additional projects must be addressed immediately in order for us to care for our parish home and more effectively continue our mission.

I humbly request that you consider responding to the campaign. Let us ask our Lord to bless and guide our endeavor. May we be inspired by the Holy Spirit, and unite as one family in faith. By doing so, we will accomplish our goals to Remember, Respond, Renew - Growing Together in Christ for the generations to come.

In Christ,

Rev. David A. Whitestone, J.C.L.
Pastor
Our History

For nearly 60 years Saint Leo the Great parish has served the Catholic residents of Fairfax City and surrounding neighborhoods as well as being a witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ in the larger community. The parish was founded in 1957 after beginning as a mission of Saint Mary of Sorrows in Fairfax Station with 450 families. Mass was first celebrated in what is now the Parish Hall which was originally intended to be the lower level of a permanent church. Construction of the upper church was abandoned and the cornerstone of our current church was laid in 1965.

The dedication and generosity of our founding parishioners permitted the construction and expansion of Saint Leo the Great Catholic School and the completion of our church in a relatively short period of time. Saint Leo parishioners have always been generous through their prayer, offertory gifts, sacrifice of time, and other gifts.

Saint Leo the Great Today

Our parish has been guided by the Holy Spirit. We are blessed to still have many original families active in our parish and blessed as well to be the home for many new families from all parts of the country and the world. Today there are more than 3,300 households representing nearly 9,700 souls registered in our parish. Over 400 students are enrolled in our school with another 550 students in religious education. Saint Leo parish is a place where the Gospel is proclaimed, faith is formed and enriched, and the poor and needy are served.

The City of Fairfax and surrounding communities has changed over the past 60 years. The responsibility and challenge of our parish community is always to respond to those changes and challenges courageously and enthusiastically. We always are rooted in and dedicated to the eternal truths of our Catholic Faith.

Saint Leo is a busy, active, evangelistic, vibrant and well-managed parish with discerning and involved parishioners. Through the celebration of the sacraments and the preaching and teaching of the Gospel, many have grown closer to Jesus Christ. May it always be so.
Challenges As We Approach Our 60th Anniversary

This year, our current pastor Father David Whitestone, along with parish leadership committees, initiated a comprehensive engineering study of the entire physical plant. The buildings were evaluated as requiring immediate attention. Many of these issues are related to basic structural needs and systems replacement or upgrading. At the same time, there are also plans for several other improvements which will enhance St. Leo’s liturgical and community life.

In order to address the overdue repair needs of Saint Leo the Great Catholic Church’s facilities Father Whitestone, with the approval and encouragement of Bishop Loverde, has decided it is necessary to launch a capital campaign. Our goal is to contact each and every parish household with the message of Saint Leo’s needs, challenge our parishioners to prayerfully consider their own stewardship, and respond in a spirit of sacrifice with a three-year pledge. Our financial goal is to raise a minimum of $3.4 million to address the urgent and pressing needs of our parish.

The church building, while receiving routine maintenance and building additions (following the 2000 parish capital campaign), is in need of structural repairs that have not to date been funded. In addition, with advances in modern technology and building practices, the building needs to be upgraded in several areas to meet new building code requirements. These improvements will ensure meeting the future needs of our parish community.

As we continue to grow in faith and serve this community, these concerns need to be met. With these much-needed repairs and improvements, Saint Leo the Great will be able to serve better not only the present but also future generations.

Participation in Christ’s Body and Blood does nothing less than transform us into that which we consume. We bear in soul and body Him whose fellowship we died, were buried, and are risen.”

~ St. Leo the Great
How to Make Your Gift

Pledges Via Cash or Check: Simply complete your pledge card by selecting the amount of your pledge and down payment (optional, but encouraged). Make sure to select your method of payment, i.e., monthly, quarterly or annual payments. Please make checks payable to St. Leo the Great Church Campaign. You will be mailed payment reminders and a special payment envelope in accordance with the payment plan you choose. Once completed, please return your pledge card in the weekly collection, bring it by the parish office or return it in the mail.

Pledges Via Faith Direct/Credit Card: For gifts and pledge payments via your Visa, Amex, MasterCard or Discover please use Faith Direct. An enrollment form can be mailed to you if requested. The enrollment form can also be found at the parish office or go to www.FaithDirect.net. Please contact Faith Direct at 1-866-507-8757 with any questions.

Gifts of Stock: Donors can use their own broker/agent to transfer and sell stock. If the stock has been held long-term (over one year), the donor does not have to pay capital gains tax on the stock, and is allowed a tax deduction for the full value of the stock. Donors may also choose to sell stock in order to claim a loss, which may be beneficial for tax circumstances. In either case, the stock must first be transferred to the parish before being liquidated.

Gifts of Property, Life Insurance, Annuities, Wills or Bequests: There are different ways to support Saint Leo both today and in the years to come via planned giving. Families or individuals can make gifts of real estate, personal property, automobiles, life insurance, estate bequests, annuities or charitable remainder trusts. For substantial gifts of property other than marketable securities, the IRS requires an appraisal.

If you have any questions about the campaign or making your pledge, please contact the parish office at 703-273-5369.

Your Decision To Give

No one can tell you how much you should give. The individual parishioner/family is the only one who actually decides what to contribute, since the financial obligations of each family are different. What you give will be held in the strictest confidence.

This is our parish and only through sacrifice can we achieve our goals. All contributions from the smallest to the largest will be gratefully appreciated. Your decision is a personal one. It should be made in good conscience and in true Christian spirit.
TAKE A LOOK...AND VIEW THE LIVE WEBCAM STREAM ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE - WWW.STLEOFIRFAX.COM

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

COMPLETED PROJECTS
Vestibule Restroom Renovation
Automatic Handicap Door Installation

IN-PROGRESS
New Church Floors
Stonework Rehab/Drainage Repair outside the Vestibule

COMING SOON
Church HVAC

Capital Campaign Performance

- Balance to Capital Campaign Goal
- Balance of Pledges Promised
- Funds Received
Please make Checks Payable to: St. Leo the Great Church Campaign

My/Our gift to the Campaign is:
Total Pledge: $ __________________________
Down Payment: $ __________________________
Balance: $ __________________________

Gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law

I/We prefer to pay my/our pledge as follows:
☐ Monthly  ☐ Quarterly
☐ Annually

Over a Period of:
☐ 1 year  ☐ 2 years  ☐ 3 years  ☐ Other ____________

Signature________________________________________

For Office Use Only
☐ CASH  ☐ CHECK #

Date | Payment | Auditor

FORM OF PAYMENT:
☐ Check/Cash
☐ Faith Direct (Existing Account)
☐ New Faith Direct Account
(Please mail me an enrollment form)

PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH
INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING:
☐ Gifts of Stock
☐ Gifts of Property
☐ Gifts of Annuities
☐ Remembering the parish in your will
☐ Other: __________________________