

Changing  Lives
Together

Sow. Reap. Rejoice.



Transforming Our Parish, Our Community
and Our Lives



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Allen H. Vigneron".

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit



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.





Dear Parishioner:

We are excited about the positive effect the Changing Lives Together initiative will have on the St. Thomas a' Becket parish family. As more parishioners support the vision outlined by Archbishop Vigneron, we grow closer to each other, closer to God, and closer to our parish goals.

Archbishop Vigneron's highest priority for this initiative is to strengthen the Church, beginning with each parish. As a stewardship parish, we have many priorities that need our support. As we help to lift our community, reach out to those in need, support our Catholic schools, and do other good work, we also need to make sure we have a strong parish that is able to meet our ongoing financial obligations. After reviewing our parish needs, we have currently set a target of \$4,000,000 for our campaign. Of that amount, over 90% will stay at St. Thomas a' Becket to fund our priorities. The balance will go to the Archdiocese to help fund the goals of the Archdiocesan-wide campaign. Through prayer and counsel, we have discerned that our parish will benefit by:

- Expanding parking space to better serve our current needs and prepare for future growth
- Remodeling and expanding the priests' living quarters to more appropriately house our current clerical staff, attract qualified candidates in the future, and accommodate guests
- Enlarging and upgrading kitchen facilities to better prepare for social gatherings, funeral lunches, pancake breakfasts, and other parish events
- Increasing storage for print materials, worship supplies, religious education materials, and seasonal items
- Remodeling the Family Life Center to become a meeting and banquet facility
- Adding a multi-purpose recreation center to provide space for youth and adult recreation

We look forward to your continuing involvement as we work together to bring the light of Christ and the strength of His love to our community. We hope you will prayerfully ask for guidance on how to best share your time, talent, and treasure according to your blessings.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Patrick P. Casey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Patrick Casey

Join Us In Changing Lives Together



Our Parish Goals



Accommodate Worship Opportunities

We are blessed to have a large, active, and involved parish family. However, it is sometimes difficult for our parishioners and guests to arrive on time for worship, meetings, and events because they've been looking for a parking space, often having to park off-site. Therefore, one of our top priorities is to expand parking to better address our

current needs and prepare for future growth.

Expand Priests' Living Quarters

The parish house is very nice, sits on beautiful property, and would be a great family home. However, it wasn't built to be a rectory, isn't conducive to housing more than one priest, and is not accommodating to visiting missionaries and other guests. Improved living quarters would better serve current clerical staff and help to attract qualified candidates to the priesthood in years to come.

Feed His Flock

Our parish kitchen fills a spiritual need for fellowship through social gatherings, pancake breakfasts, and other parish events as well as extending comfort to grieving families at funeral luncheons. Renovation and expansion of the kitchen and Family Life Center will help us better provide for our growing needs and continue to feed His flock in body and soul.

Increase Storage

Just as lack of storage is an issue in many homes, so it is at St. Thomas. We need to store religious education materials, worship supplies, seasonal decorative items, tables and chairs, various print materials, office supplies, and more. Additional storage will help relieve clutter and increase staff organization and efficiency.



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.**

Strengthening Our Parish



Remodel the Family Life Center

The Family Life Center is home to many events throughout the year: funeral lunches, pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinners, holiday parties, meetings, craft shows, and youth activities. Our goal is to remodel the Family Life Center to become an enhanced meeting and banquet facility we can all enjoy and be proud of.

Add A Multi-purpose Recreation Center

It's hard for the youth in today's world to live a Christ-driven life. It's important that we give them guidance and direction on how to live as Christ has taught us. We are blessed with a growing number of active youth in our parish. But, this has created a need for more space for current and planned youth ministries and programs. The Changing Lives Together Initiative will help us build a multi-purpose recreation center to host CYO basketball and many other adult, as well as youth, activities.



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.



“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 St. Thomas a’Becket Changing Lives Together Leadership

Dear Parish Family:

It has been a blessing to answer the call to serve as leaders for the Changing Lives Together Initiative on behalf of our parish. We look forward to the even greater blessing of having you join us in this call.

In prayerfully contemplating the parish goals for the initiative, we have been encouraged by our faith in you. God has reminded us that He has given each of us unique gifts and experiences that will allow us to strengthen the body of Christ, His Church.

Now it’s your turn to spend time in prayer, asking Him to show you what your gifts are and how you can use them for His Church. Have faith that you will be used to change lives...most importantly, your own.

We believe that our goals for the parish and the archdiocesan-wide priorities detailed by Archbishop Vigneron will be accomplished, blessing us for generations to come. The blessing we most anticipate is standing with you, together in Christ. Please join us.

In Christ,

Jim Vassallo and Dennis Howie
St. Thomas a’Becket Changing Lives Together Campaign Chairs

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