



Diocese of Davenport

WALKING TOGETHER IN FAITH

News Release

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TO: Media

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RE: The Diocese of Davenport achieves \$22 million capital campaign goal

By Barb Arland-Fye, The Catholic Messenger

Despite the worst economic conditions in decades, the Diocese of Davenport has achieved its \$22 million capital campaign goal. The achievement boosts morale in a diocese deeply wounded because of the abuse of children by some clergy in past decades. The campaign, which kicked off last year, was the first in more than 20 years for the diocese and came at a time of rebuilding following bankruptcy. All 80 parishes and the Newman Catholic Student Center in Iowa City participated in the fundraising effort that will cover the purchase and renovation of diocesan headquarters in Davenport as well as support clergy, seminarians, schools, parishes and diocesan ministries. More than 9,700 donors contributed, with an average gift of \$2,265.

"I am absolutely overwhelmed at the response of people for their Church," Bishop Martin Amos said. "The initial need was prompted by the bankruptcy, but the success of the campaign has truly moved us forward in faith and hope."

Capital campaign chair Mike Bauer said he was "humbled by the response of the diocese's priests in making such a substantial commitment of both their personal financial contributions (\$1 million in pledges) and their commitment of time and energy to make sure we were successful."

Sister Laura Goedken, OP, the diocese's development director, said the generosity of the people of the diocese means "we can be much more mission focused and mission directed and concentrate on being a Eucharistic community."

Msgr. John Hyland, the diocese's vicar general, thanked all who contributed to the campaign. "There were countless individuals who provided leadership roles in our diocese, deaneries and parishes and the goal was reached because of their dedication and hard work; my thanks to them."

The 20 percent rebate to parishes also proved to be an attractive incentive. "We were particularly influenced by the rebate program because we have all kinds of needs here at St. Paul the Apostle," said Father Mike Spiekermeier, pastor of the Davenport parish. His was one of five parishes that piloted the campaign. The first rebate check, for \$65,648.15, helped with payments toward purchase of property and construction of a parking lot for the growing parish.

St. Mary Parish in Grinnell, another pilot parish, received its first payment -- \$23,877 -- and used it toward purchase of a new air conditioner in the church, said the pastor, Father Nick Adam. Future checks will go toward other physical needs at the church, such as repair of the front steps. "I am very proud of my parish," Fr. Adam said, which like St. Paul's exceeded its goal. The cause for the campaign, he said, was well presented.