

# **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH—HELOTES**

## **“BUILDING COMMUNITY” CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

### **?Frequently Asked Questions?**

**The pledge card has a sample chart that starts pledges at \$4,000 which is more than I can give. What is the minimum pledge amount?**

There is no minimum or maximum pledge amount. A campaign is successful when all parties give what they can to meet a common goal.

**What if my situation changes (i.e., divorce, loss of job, move), am I still responsible for my pledge?**

If you do experience a life altering event, please contact our parish office. We are here to serve you.

**I am \_\_\_ years old and may not live another five years. Can I pledge for a shorter time period?**

Yes. Pledges can be made as a one-time amount or they can be paid out over any time period that works for you (i.e., 6 months, 1 year, 2 years)

**What if I pass away before my pledge is paid in full, will my estate be responsible for the balance of my pledge?**

No. If you pass away before your pledge is paid, your estate is not responsible for the balance. However, there are options available to include our parish in your will. Please contact us for more information.

**I have been dealing with \_\_\_\_\_ and can only make a minimal pledge at this time. If my financial situation changes, can I increase my pledge?**

Absolutely! Please contact us if your situation changes and you are able to share your abundance with the parish by increasing your pledge amount.

**What forms of payment are accepted?**

Pledges can be fulfilled with cash, check, Discover, Visa and MasterCard. We have the availability to do one-time American Express payments. Checks can be mailed, placed in the collection basket, or be deducted directly from your checking account through online giving. You can set up credit card payments through online giving or we can set them up manually.

**I have been using the yellow gold envelopes to support the first of the month Capital Campaign Collection. I just received an ivory envelope that says “Building Community”. Is this the same thing ... which one do I use?**

The yellow gold envelopes have been in use since we purchased The Annex and will continue to be used for one-time monthly payments that support our Capital Campaign. The ivory envelopes are to be used when submitting payments that are fulfilling your formal pledge. All of the monies will be used for the same purpose – our “Building Community” Capital Campaign to develop The Annex.

**I am already giving to the first of the month Building Fund Collection, why should I make a formal pledge to the Capital Campaign if the money is going to the same place?**

When you make a formal pledge, we are able to obtain approval faster to start construction of our buildings. Once our parish has half of the monies in the bank or pledged (committed) in support of our Capital Campaign building project, we are able to move forward with obtaining financing to start construction. If the monies are given monthly with no formal commitment, they can be considered only as they are received and deposited each month.

**I am on a fixed income and cannot financially support the Capital Campaign, is there any other way that I can show support?**

Yes. While we appreciate your stewardship of treasure; your time, talent and prayers are always welcome.

Also, if your health allows, you can:

- volunteer at our work days at The Annex to assist with maintenance and other small projects  
- the dates are advertised in the bulletin, or
- volunteer with any of our Capital Campaign fundraisers.

**How are we going to afford to maintain a second property?**

It is not any different from expanding on an existing property. It is unlikely for a parish family to financially support new construction and then not be willing to provide for the maintenance/upkeep. This new construction will allow us to accommodate growth in the area which will in turn equate to additional financial support from new parishioners. The new buildings will provide rental income as there will be opportunities to rent space for weddings, anniversaries and other indoor celebrations.

**Can I deduct my pledge on my taxes?**

Your pledge is considered a charitable contribution. We mail tax receipts for all payments over \$250 or more. However, we will be happy to provide a tax receipt for any amount if you contact the parish office.

**If I set up auto payment, am I able to stop or change the amount if my financial situation changes?**

Yes, you can stop or change the date or payment amount. If you require assistance, please contact the parish office.

**If I cannot make my pledge payment, will it affect my credit rating?**

No. We do not report payments to credit bureaus. Also, we will not report a pledge for non-payment. If your situation changes, please contact us and we will work with you.

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR "BUI**

**Is the parish able to qualify for any financial support from outside our community (i.e., Archdiocese, grants, state or federal funding, etc.)? If so, for how much and when can this take place?**

Each parish is responsible for raising the monies to support any new development. Archdiocesan financial support is not available. We will pursue any Catholic, private foundation or public funding that we qualify for to supplement our Capital Campaign. You can help by completing Volunteer Service Hour forms for any volunteer work that you perform in the parish. Grants range from hundreds to thousands of dollars. We will submit grant applications at the start of the construction process.

**When will the construction of the buildings begin?**

We must have half of the funds for the first phase pledged, before we can request Archdiocesan approval to proceed with construction. The first phase includes the Religious Education Building, Multi-Purpose Building and supportive infrastructure. The projected cost of the first phase is \$23 million.

**The projected construction costs for the first phase seems very high. How can our parish meet our goal?**

We have over 4,590 registered families that include a total of 20,775 individuals in our parish. To raise \$23 million over five years requires each parish family to contribute approximately \$1,000 each year or <\$2.74 per day for each family. We realize some can pledge this amount, some can pledge more and others less. As stated earlier, only you can determine what is appropriate for your personal situation. Based upon the history of our Church and generosity of our parish family, we are optimistic that together we will reach our goal.

**What happens if we do not meet our goal?**

An end of year assessment of the Capital Campaign year one will be conducted. We will assess our options at that time.

**The Religious Education building is a priority; why does the construction of this first phase include the multi-purpose building?**

Because the cost effectiveness is to our advantage. We will have a significant construction cost savings if these two buildings and their supportive infrastructure occur simultaneously.

**I don't like our Church having two locations. Why can't we build on our current campus?**

This would have been ideal. However, we are landlocked and in a unique position. Most landlocked parishes are inner city and in an area that is not experiencing growth. We are in an area that has seen significant growth and is still growing. A considerable amount of time was exhausted on researching options to utilize our current campus. The best option was to purchase a second campus. It took close to ten years to locate a campus in our area that was affordable and would suit our parish's needs.

**...DING COMMUNITY" CAPITAL CAMPAIGN!**

## **We closed on this property six years ago. Why has it taken so long to build?**

We have made steady progress since we closed on the property. We paid off the note for the land. Renovations were made to the existing residence. A partial historic building on the site was converted to a Chapel. We constructed a pavilion with adjoining restrooms and concession area. We installed basic infrastructure to include bringing in sanitary sewer lines. We have also completed other projects required to convert the property from residential to commercial. All of these improvements have been paid in full with monies from our first of the month Capital Campaign collections. We have no outstanding debt at The Annex. We actively use The Annex for ministry meetings, outreach activities, parish festival, CYO, day retreats, celebrations, youth activities, and rentals for family celebrations.

## **Why are we doing a pledge campaign now?**

We are starting Phase III of our Master Plan Development. This will take a significant commitment from our parish family in order to begin construction on our larger buildings. A pledge campaign will help us meet our financial goals.

## **Why do we need a Religious Education building? What is wrong with our current Parish Community Center (hall)?**

Our Parish Community Center does not have adequate space to provide Religious Education in a traditional classroom environment to our many youth. Our current parish hall was constructed to accommodate a parish family of 2000, not 30,000. The number of youth participating in our middle school and high school programs exceed our hall capacity. Our faith formation programs for youth and adults are greatly restricted by lack of space.

## **Can I give gifts of stock or property?**

Yes. We can accept gifts in many forms—stocks, property, life insurance, annuities, wills, bequests. Please contact the parish office for more information.

## **Who can I contact with additional Capital Campaign questions?**

General Parish Questions? You may contact the parish office at 210-695-8791, or Father Carlos Davalos at 210-695-8791 or [cdavalos@olghelotes.org](mailto:cdavalos@olghelotes.org)

Finance Questions? You may contact Maryanne Burns at 210-695-8791 or [mburns@olghelotes.org](mailto:mburns@olghelotes.org)

General Capital Campaign Questions? You may contact Sandra Archey at 210-602-7233 or [sarchey@olghelotes.org](mailto:sarchey@olghelotes.org)

**Please stay tuned to our parish bulletin and website at [www.olghelotes.org](http://www.olghelotes.org) for the most current Capital Campaign updates. We sincerely appreciate your support of our Pledge Campaign!**

## **OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PRAYER—LET'S PRAY...**

Heavenly Father, we ask Your blessings as we come together to Build Community and make our vision a reality. Lord, help us to work together to build for the present and the future. Almighty Father, guide us so that we can look beyond our needs. Give us the desire to make the necessary sacrifices for the good of all the faithful, our future, our youth. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pray for us.