

Catholics asked for input on possible capital campaign

By Michael Brown
Editor

BOISE – Catholics throughout Idaho are being asked to respond to surveys about a possible capital campaign for the diocese.

In a letter sent to pastors and other diocesan leaders, consultants from Guidance in Giving, a nationwide company specializing in stewardship and development programs and currently working with the diocese, are asking Catholics to fill out a survey either in their parishes or available online at the diocesan Web site, www.catholicidaho.org.

The survey asks a dozen questions about possible elements of a “case statement” – the reason for conducting the campaign – and the ability of the person responding to contribute to the campaign. The aggregate goals for six elements total \$15.5 million.

“An interview team is currently traveling throughout the diocese conducting personal interviews with every pastor, as well as meeting with other priests, religious, deacons and laity. At the conclusion of these interviews, an evaluation will be made to help us better understand the potential for success for a diocesanwide capital campaign, and if feasible, begin the formulation of a plan of action and recommendations regarding the next steps in implementing a successful effort,” said Bishop Michael P. Driscoll. “Since careful preparation and thoughtful planning are required for any successful venture, diocesanwide participation by our parishioners in this study is a very important factor in making this project a success.”

The survey includes the following potential elements, and the potential goals for each element, if Bishop Driscoll decides to move forward with a capital campaign: Care of Retired Priests (\$1.5 million), Educating Seminarians, Priests and Permanent Deacons (\$1.5 million), Catholic Education in Schools, Parishes and Colleges (\$3 million), Catholic Charities of Idaho (\$4 million), one year of the Idaho Catholic Appeal (\$2.5 million) and Strengthening Parishes (\$3 million).

Surveys should be sent to the “Feasibility Study Office,” at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1501 South Federal Way, Suite 400, Boise, ID 83705. The Feasibility Study Office of Guidance in Giving is working with the diocesan Development Office. The deadline for submission is Feb. 17, and Guidance in Giving leaders are hoping for 5,000 responses. They are requesting one response per family. Respondents are asked to include their names, but it is optional.

Except for a question about a level of giving, respondents are asked to check a line next to one of three options: Yes, No, Unsure. Other questions on the survey include:

- Would you accept a leadership position or serve on a parish or diocesan campaign committee?
- Is it reasonable to presume 10,000 Catholics out of 30,000 across the diocese would consider a gift to this campaign?
- If 10,000 Catholic households make a gift, is it reasonable to presume these gifts could average \$40 per month over a four-year period?
- That would generate \$19 million. Is this reasonable?
- Looking at your individual situation, would you consider a gift to this campaign over a period of 48 months?
- Should individual parishes receive 25 percent of the funds raised in their parish up to the target and 75 percent over the goal?
- Should the Diocese of Boise conduct a campaign to meet the challenges ahead once the case statement is finalized?

One question addresses respondents who would consider making a monthly pledge for 48 months, asking at which level, of the following amounts, would they be willing to give: \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50, \$75 or \$100.

The final question asks “Are there any comments or advice you would like to give, or areas that are not covered above that you would like to mention?” Other questions also provide space for written comments.

Recommendations and a report from Guidance in Giving are expected to be submitted to Bishop Driscoll in March. The cost of the feasibility study is being covered by a grant from the Catholic Church Extension Society.