

THE DIOCESE OF TULSA
The Roman Catholic Church of Eastern Oklahoma



Preliminary Case Statement Summary

In 1972, the Diocese of Tulsa was officially established following the division of the former Diocese of Oklahoma City-Tulsa. Our young Diocese now spans 26,417 square miles and 31 counties, proudly serving 65,000 Catholics throughout Eastern Oklahoma. The Diocese of Tulsa includes 78 parishes and missions, 101 priests, one high school, nine parish schools, and two private Catholic schools.

As we look to the future, we must think of the needs facing our entire Diocese and of the individuals and families who have not yet experienced the love of Jesus Christ in the sacraments. We must work to support the rural poor and encourage Catholic identity throughout our region. A capital campaign can help promote our evangelization efforts and ensure the continued growth of our parishes, ministry programs, Catholic schools, and Diocese.

To further study and examine our challenges and opportunities, the Diocese is exploring the feasibility of a major fundraising campaign seeking to raise \$30 million. In the past, our community has always responded with generosity to the needs facing our Diocese. Today, we again ask for support and guidance as we plan for the future to address the needs in the following areas:

❖ **Diocesan Endowment for Ministries**

The future of the Church relies on educating individuals on the Gospel and integrating faith into their daily lives. Purposeful, life-long learning and prayer is an utmost priority. As such, the Diocese will continue to reach out by educating and providing resources to all who enter through our doors. Monies raised in a campaign would be dedicated to resources and scholarships to help religious education staff and volunteers to attend continuing education conferences. Additionally, faith formation materials could be translated into Spanish to be used in our Hispanic ministry outreach.

❖ **Rural Outreach**

Our Diocese spans all corners of the region, reaching even the most outlying areas of Eastern Oklahoma. In order to keep our Catholic faith vibrant in our rural communities our parishes need dedicated resources used for serving and sustaining a Catholic presence throughout the Diocese. Monies raised in this campaign will equip the Pastor, Religious Education, Youth Ministry and Family Life with the necessary programs and services to build and grow strong parishes.

❖ **St. Francis Assisi Tuition Assistance Trust**

Additions to the trust would help to provide need-based tuition assistance to elementary and secondary school students, providing them access to a quality, Catholic school education.

❖ **Bishop Kelley High School Endowment**

Growth of the endowment allows for the continued and increased support of the operations of an important source of Catholic school education in our community, Bishop Kelley High School.

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❖ Seminarian Education

Priests are with us at the most sacred moments in our lives, and share with us times of joy as well as provide needed counsel in times of sorrow. These men, who are configured to Christ, the Eternal High Priest, have been called by the Holy Spirit and have committed their lives to a life of service. In recent years, the Diocese has been able to fund these young men's theology courses. With the rising cost of education, the Diocese is seeking funds to build the endowment to a level so that the Diocese can continue to financially assist those who enter the seminary for studies and discernment that will hopefully lead to their ordination to priesthood.

❖ Home for End-of-Life Care

End-of-life care is a very difficult situation for any family. By establishing the Saint Joseph Residence, families with end-of-life needs will receive compassionate care by nursing professionals, staff, and volunteers. Residents will be referred by hospitals or their physicians who determine they will benefit from palliative care in comfortable surroundings. The care plan will be administered by the physician and a hospice organization. Those who serve the residents will uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church, the sanctity of life, and end-of-life care according to the Ethical and Religious Directives. Patients who do not have the means to engage home hospice or round-the-clock care or who have no home to return to will be candidates for Saint Joseph Residence. Friends and families will also have comfortable surroundings to be part of their loved ones' care. This project will include construction of a residence-style building with twelve private rooms and space for the residents and their friends and family.

❖ Priest Retirement Fund

A growing number of priests in the Diocese of Tulsa are nearing the age of retirement. Many retired priests continue to work in some capacity long after official retirement. After a lifetime of devotion and service, it is an appropriate and vital step that they are taken care of in the years following their retirement. Funding priest retirement is a concrete way of demonstrating our appreciation for the selflessness and commitment our priests have shown to the people of the Diocese of Tulsa throughout their years of service. Additional funds will support our current services and allow us to better prepare for future health and retirement expenses.

❖ Holy Family Cathedral / Diocesan Activity Center

Holy Family Cathedral has been the beacon of comfort and support for the entire Diocese's parish family. Thanks to the generosity of the families in the Diocese, the Cathedral is a warm and welcoming home to all. Much has been accomplished and it is now a pressing need to build an Activity Center for people of the Diocese to gather before and after Diocesan events held at the Cathedral. Additionally, Diocesan-wide educational opportunities will be able to be held at this Activity Center.

❖ Direct Local Parish Support

The parish is the center of our Catholic lives. It is where we worship, come together to hear God's word and continue to grow closer to God through Holy Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation. The parish is where we find fellowship, where our children are baptized and where we pray with loved ones in moments of tragedy and triumph. The Diocese is committed to providing an opportunity to parishes through this campaign to fund local needs. Meeting the sacramental, spiritual formation and religious education needs of our growing Catholic population, as well as the maintenance and repair needs of our parishes and schools, must be addressed to sustain and strengthen their priorities and ministry well into the future.