



February 2014

Campaign Progress



In just over one year since the start of the Christ the Cornerstone Campaign and through the dedicated leadership and early support of many, St. Paul's is approaching \$11mm raised! **Thank you** to all who have supported this project – the success of this first year is a remarkable accomplishment.

Know that the investment of your time and financial support is deeply valuable to the future of keeping the Catholic faith alive and attractive to students at UW-Madison.

As we begin 2014 marching forward to our goal, we continue to receive major gifts of support. The leadership team is ready and fully engaged in all

that this campaign demands to steward all of your support thus far and develop what is necessary to reach our goal.

Year two of the campaign has begun, and it is just as important as the first. Your support has guided us to a tremendous start to the campaign, and we are eager to work all the more closely with you as we build a once-in-a-lifetime Catholic project to be a light to many souls searching for Truth.

Onward we go, pray for us, and please keep supporting this mission!

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Finding a Home Away From Home!



Click to [watch Patricia's story](#) as a Puerto Rican native and PhD candidate who, like hundreds of other students, has found a home away from home and deepened faith in Christ!

Students from all over the world are attracted to the education and opportunities offered at UW-Madison, one of the top 20 ranked universities in the world.

More than ever, students are recognizing the need for authentic community as a vital part of their college years and St. Paul's is there to meet that need.



Donor Highlight – Fr. Randy J. Timmerman

Fr. Randy J. Timmerman, St. Paul's Pastor from 2002-2006, sees a strong connection between St. Paul's conversion from the book of Acts and the ways students encounter Jesus Christ through the mission of St. Paul's, "because it is in community that disciples are formed."

After meeting Jesus Christ on the road, Saul "stayed with the disciples for some time in Damascus and soon went forth to proclaim Jesus as Son of God."

The work of St. Paul's can provide students with such an encounter with Christ, says Fr. Timmerman, as "St. Paul's community and this new building invites, welcomes and sends forth. These students see their peers engaged in the primacy of prayer and Bible studies, and they find a certain sense of peace and contentment in their hearts."

"Students look at other students in the life of St. Paul's and see a life of prayer modeled there. It's not just a service group or a social group, it's rooted in friendship with Christ."

Just like St. Paul's conversion, Fr. Timmerman recognizes that "for students today, whether they're here for one semester or eight, there is an experience of coming together with the disciples, and then students are invited to be drawn deeper into this love of the Lord."

The end result, says Fr. Timmerman, is much like St. Paul as "these students graduate and go forth to proclaim Jesus as Son of God whether it's in their marriage, their vocation, their profession, or their own call to holiness."

Though he has been reassigned to other parishes since his time at St. Paul's and now currently serves St. Dennis Parish in Madison, Fr. Timmerman continues to be an active part of St. Paul's as a leader and benefactor of the Christ the Cornerstone campaign.

"For me, the mission is primary," Fr. Timmerman says. "The mission of St. Paul's is so important to the life of the Church, and it really does impact the local parishes."

"When students meet their spouses through the activities of St. Paul's and share that experience of growing in faith and in community as college students, they're much more apt to keep the Church and faith in a place of primacy in their own family life. So they naturally gravitate towards the parish, towards being active in those communities."

The need for a new building is clear. "The current building has 'run the race,' to quote St. Paul, and the student center is exhausted beyond its use. We have to replace it," noted Fr. Timmerman. "The new student center will provide a more suitable space for people to grow in community, and the new chapel will be a place of invitation for young people, to lift them up into active worship."

There is a great need for a strong Catholic presence at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "If the university is the marketplace of ideas, that's where the Catholic presence wants to be, in the center of that."

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Have you visited our campaign website?

As the campaign continues to grow, this is the place to check for the most up-to-the-minute updates about campaign progress and project details as well as inspiring stories of the people who are helping to make a new St. Paul's a reality.

New student testimony videos will be unveiled in the coming months so look for those as well! Friends of St. Paul's will also be able to make a gift or pledge to the campaign.

Check it out at:
www.uwcatholic.org/cornerstone

Mission Forward



St. Paul's works hard to provide a loving Catholic environment for students on the University of Wisconsin campus. Some who do not know much about this ministry may ask why St. Paul's is embarking on a major campaign of this size. Is the community and the setting on campus truly worth it? If I am not a supporter, or just starting to become one, what is so special about St. Paul's that keeps generating such excitement?

The answer lies in the community that is growing here. Students seek community to have friendships and be supported and challenged by their peers. It is in the social

everyday habits that these young brilliant minds are developing moral and philosophical thought while away from home for the first time in their life. This community is why the University of Wisconsin invests hundreds of millions into building and renovating facilities such as the two unions, dormitories, and fitness facilities, not to mention outfitting the school buildings with libraries and cafés. It is not that they spend money frivolously, it's that they know the demand for strong community space among current students.

Likewise the Catholic presence on campus sees continual demand from students. We possess an incredible opportunity for evangelization in having a large Catholic student community right on Library Mall where students can interact with each other and build genuine life-long friendships.

However, despite the strength and remarkable growth in the student community and its incredible central location, the ministry is significantly hampered by the lack of space and location to invite and cultivate more students in relationship to each other and Christ. Let us always be ready to invite young people to the faith and be just as prepared for them to walk through the doors of St. Paul's searching for more.

There is a lot of challenge and hurt in the lives of young people in our current society, and studies show that loneliness and lingering emotional hurt drive young people to seek consolation through others. At St. Paul's we can and will continue to build that through a loving community and an actual facility that 42,000 students can discover and find that they are loved. At UW-Madison, that is worth more than 100 unions or libraries, and that is the opportunity at hand.