



# FAITH

IN OUR FUTURE

## SHARING THE GIFTS OF OUR LOCAL CHURCH: GLOBAL STEWARDSHIP

We recognize our archdiocese is part of a larger community and we are called to extend ourselves to meet needs beyond our borders — to share the gifts God has given the Church of southeastern Wisconsin.

### SETTING THE EXAMPLE

To model responsible stewardship, the *Faith In Our Future* Campaign's *Global Faith and Education Fund* will provide \$1,650,000 to support Catholic education and faith formation initiatives outside southeastern Wisconsin. Our community of 700,000 Catholics is part of a universal Church and shares a portion of its resources to benefit Catholic causes beyond our borders.

### LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

For 25 years, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has shared resources, faith and friendship with our sister

parish, La Sagrada Familia (Holy Family), in the Dominican Republic.

Sagrada Familia is located in Azua, the most arid section of the Dominican Republic, where poverty affects 60 percent of the population. The water is not drinkable and electric power is sporadic. Twenty-five percent of the homes have no restrooms. Health care is limited and the education system deficient; 20 percent of the people are illiterate. A recent hurricane devastated the area.

Two priests from our archdiocese join a pastoral staff, health care staff and a social worker, all native to the Dominican Republic, to serve 50,000 parishioners spread across 29 villages. Their ministry goes beyond the pastoral to include human development and social advocacy — working with the people of the parish to help them build a better life and develop leaders from within the community.

One half of the parishioners are under age 18, and nearly one third are not baptized. Pastoral goals for the upcoming year include finishing one chapel and installing the base of another, while

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*More on reverse side.*

*Jesus Christ: the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.*

continuing to celebrate the sacraments throughout the entire parish; forming more catechists and expanding youth and adult catechesis; and baptizing 1,500 people.

Parish projects to improve quality of life are numerous. A few goals for this year include:

- Expanding the Nutrition Center, which was designed to serve 80 but feeds 150 malnourished children a day;
- Increasing doctor visits to the center and improving pharmacy and first aid stations throughout the parish;
- Adding 85 latrines in various communities. The parish supplies materials, and the people do the work themselves;
- Promoting family gardens. The parish grows fruit trees and vegetables to distribute among needy families. However, a well is needed to continue this project;
- Increasing adult literacy program to 15 groups, including one held in prison;
- Increasing youth scholarships;
- Continuing the sewing program and beginning a carpentry workshop.

One of the biggest challenges is to raise funds for the salaries of our priests. Without their dedication to partnering with the people, none of these projects would be possible.

Many southeastern Wisconsin parishes and schools have found ways to connect with our sisters and brothers in La Sagrada Familia Parish -- making rosaries for school children, sharing “prayer bears,” and researching the parish to educate people here in our archdiocese.

Several parishes have begun “twinning” relationships with Sagrada Familia, welcoming visiting parishioners to southeastern Wisconsin. When archdiocesan pilgrimage groups travel to the parish, families in Sagrada Familia host them for two or three nights, and villages often invite the group to dine with them.

Funds designated for global stewardship will enable us to deepen this rich relationship as we share our gifts with those in great need.

### SUPPORTING PRIESTLY FORMATION WORLDWIDE

Other *Faith In Our Future* initiatives focus on building significant support for priestly formation at our local seminary, Saint Francis de Sales Seminary. Through global stewardship we support the Church’s priestly vocations worldwide through gifts to institutions such as:

- The Catholic University of America, in Washington, D.C.;
- The North American College, America’s seminary in Rome;
- The American College of the Immaculate Conception, in Louvain, Belgium.

### ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

In addition, the archdiocese receives requests for support from bishops of other dioceses around the globe. Funds raised through global stewardship give us the flexibility to share our resources with communities of lesser means.

For more information contact Debra Lethlean, Development Director, 414-769-3322.