

Shepherd *the way*

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS FROM FAITHFUL SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FSCS Capital Campaign raises \$1,041,771 to date

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The Importance of a Catholic Education

— by Fr. Joseph Gallatin, Pastor, St. Peter

I am excited to be part of Faithful Shepherd! When I was asked to serve the people of St. Peter in Mendota, I didn't know very much about the parish. But I did know that the church I was about to visit for the first time had a school. Our school is part of the life of not just one parish, but three, and I was aware of that fact even before I arrived because my own sister, Mrs. Kate Larson, is a teacher here.



Education has always been important to my family. My parents were both teachers before they retired, and they passed on to each of their five children a sense of the importance of education. They made great sacrifices to send all five of us through our parish grade school and then to Catholic schools for high school and college.

Going to a Catholic school through eighth grade laid a foundation of faith for me that I remember every day.

† It was at my Catholic school that I learned about the importance of treating other people with respect and where I learned the Ten Commandments.

† It was there that I learned practical aspects of

our faith: how to open the Bible, for example, and find the great stories of the Old Testament and the life of Christ.

† It was in my Catholic school that I first heard (in seventh grade) an invitation to consider the priesthood, for which I will always be grateful.

† It was there that I first had the intensive kind of education that would continue in the ensuing years, and that really set my classmates and me on the path to success.

That education also made us people who were capable of proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ, of telling the world that our faith is important to us, and of helping to spread it to others. I strongly believe in Catholic education. I also know that it requires sacrifice. The school I attended had been built half a century before I went there.

At Faithful Shepherd Catholic School, learning is taking place in a setting that is very new. A great vision has been realized, and our school is strong. The people of our day have prepared a great gift to those who will come after them.

But the gift is not yet complete. Let's keep moving forward in this campaign so that future generations will also benefit from our commitment to Catholic education.

Thanks to faculty & staff for their participation!

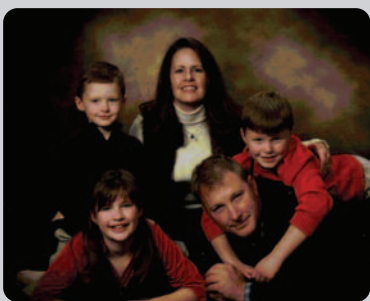
Faithful Shepherd Catholic School would not be the same vibrant community without the clear vision and expert guidance of our faculty and staff.

We honor and humbly thank them for their participation in the Shepherd the Way campaign. With 95% participating, it shows their true dedication to the future of Faithful Shepherd and Catholic education.

General Gift Phase begins

This spring, the capital campaign launched the General Gift Phase, led by Tom & Amy Fafinski. Everyone's support is encouraged, regardless of the dollar amount.

A sincere "thanks" goes out to Tom & Amy for volunteering to lead this phase of the campaign!



Fafinski Family

Campaign Update

GOAL:
\$2,500,000

PLEDGED:
\$1,041,771

Toshiba donates \$12,000 wireless classroom; school-wide enrichment program launched

Faithful Shepherd has been awarded a state-of-the-art Wireless Classroom pilot program from Toshiba Digital Products Division, a division of Toshiba American Information Systems, Inc. The package is valued at more than \$12,000 and includes five Portégé M700 Tablet PCs, a wireless digital projector, and supporting components. Toshiba provided the school with instructional and consulting services to help its administrators and teaching staff to achieve optimal results.

Toshiba Tablet PCs – used in One:One K-12 schools across the U.S. – offer all the benefits of a standard laptop with the added bonus of being more intuitive and more natural in an educational environment. A key component is the digital stylus pen, which provides teachers with the flexibility to draw diagrams and formulas on their electronic files – something that can't be done with a mouse.

"We are extremely excited and honored to be selected as a Toshiba Wireless Classroom recipient," said Maureen Odegard, Faithful Shepherd vice principal and development director. "Equipped with Tablet PCs and wireless projectors, our staff can create exciting and engaging digital learning environments, and familiarize students with the latest mobile computing technologies. These products will enable our teacher to enrich their lesson plans with the Web and multi-media components, and they can enjoy greater flexibility in presenting their materials with virtual whiteboarding functionality and wireless connectivity, which provide the freedom to edit or add notes to presentation materials from anywhere in the classroom."

As a Professional Learning Community, Faithful Shepherd Catholic School strives to give every child, every chance to have the richest possible experience every day. This year, our school wide enrichment program was instituted.

Students in grades K-4 that have met assigned math and reading targets in their classroom, were enriched through our circle groups.

It is with these circle groups that our Toshiba tablets are offering terrific opportunities to advance student learning. Some of the projects that have happened this year include:

Kindergarten/ 1st Grade Reading Enrichment

- Leading activities in completing a graphic organizer or Venn diagram
- Researching a country of their choice, and finding specific items of that country: topographic map, country flag, recipe of country, music of country

Grades 1-3 Math Enrichment

- Using tablets to show their thinking as they are solving math problems
- Saving student's work in this area in a digital portfolio
- Using tablets in conjunction with the Internet to solve fun and challenging math problems and riddles.

In the future we are looking at incorporating more projects for the intermediate-age students that would include 3rd-4th grade students participating in a Design and Build enrichment unit where they create a 2-D blueprint and 3-D structure integrating measurement and geometry math units.

In addition, future projects may include creating a unit for 3rd-4th grade students where students first immerse themselves in books written by Greg Tang. Their culminating project would be to write and illustrate math-related books for younger students.

Depending on the project, the tablets would be used to write and illustrate these books, including clipart, student illustrations and/or digital photos to enhance their stories.

Online giving and forms at ShepherdTheWay.com

Care to make your campaign pledge or payment online? Visit our Web site at ShepherdTheWay.com where you can find more information, pledge cards and links to our online payment service.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Shepherd the Way capital campaign, please contact Sue Riesgraf at 651-406-4747 x 5395 or sriesgraf@fscsmn.org.

Thank you!