



COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

We recently shared the amazing news about two different grants being offered to the St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Community. We want to further explain some of the details of each unique grant, and what it means to parishioners and supporters of St. Mary's Church and School.

Schulze Family Foundation (SFF) \$25,000 Challenge Grant

This grant is given through a foundation established by the Richard Schulze family, founder of Best Buy, and is intended specifically for St. Mary's School for two purposes:

1. To create or improve marketing and development practices that will positively impact enrollment and school sustainability.
2. To introduce or improve practices, curriculum, programs and training that will advance school excellence in all areas.

The SFF Grant has unique donor guidelines because they want to push us to increase our donor base. Therefore:

1. People who give to the challenge grant must either be brand new donors to the school, or
2. If they have donated to the school before, only the amount above their previous largest gift can be counted. (Ex. If you have given \$200 in the past and now give \$300, only \$100 counts toward the SFF Grant). NOTE: Gifts made to the 2018 Capital Campaign DO NOT count as school donations. If you gave to that campaign, you could still be counted as a new donor to the school.

The school can ask for any amount up to \$25,000, but if we don't reach our goal by March 31, we will not receive any funds from SFF. We are currently working on a budget for items that fit the SFF grant guidelines and are planning to challenge ourselves to raise \$25,000. If we meet that goal, we will have \$50,000 to implement these much-needed programs and strategies. *(See the back for information on the \$800,000 Grant).*

\$800,000 St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Community Matching Grant

It is truly amazing that this wonderful, faith-filled, successful couple (both worldly and spiritually!) still cares so deeply about their Catholic School roots. They have a heart for the educational and evangelizing mission of the Church. At this time, they want to remain anonymous but we can share some of the story.

This couple has followed St. Mary's Church and School closely over the years. Early this fall, we shared information about a number of developments at the school as well as the needs of the parish. They were very excited and supportive of the school's initiative to begin a Montessori Children's House for 3-6 year-olds, and they believe in the importance of providing a welcoming environment for young families, including all-day preschool. They also encourage the development of 7th and 8th grade expansions if there is interest. For the parish, they were told about our need for ground level offices and meeting spaces.

We never could have imagined that an \$800,000 matching grant would come from those conversations! They hope to inspire and activate us over the next three years. If we can do our part, we would have \$1,600,000 for a building project that would meet the needs of our parish and school.

This is a matching grant, not a challenge grant. For example, if we only raise \$300,000 by December, 2024, they will match it with \$300,000. However, we would not get the additional \$500,000 they are willing to give. That's motivation!

Unlike the SFF Grant, there are no limitations on donors. They will also accept any SFF donations to the school as a match to their grant offer. That means that if you donated \$500 to the school for the Schulze grant, SFF will match it, making it \$1000, and the Mt. Carmel Community Grant will match that \$1000. Your \$500 becomes \$2000! If you have any questions, please contact a trustee, the principal, or the rectory, and pray for God's will to be revealed and fulfilled as we move ahead.