Forward.

Together.

Unlimited!

A New Strategic Approach Towards

Future Capital Improvements

and The Metropolis Commitment

Of

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Schererville, Indiana

Forward. Together. Unlimited!

As we look **Forward** to the future, one thing is certain. The improvement needs of our complex will only get greater. In order for funds to be raised for these improvements, church leaders must be transparent with our parishioners detailing what projects are necessary and exactly where their donation monies will be spent. Working **Together** is the only avenue to seeing **Unlimited** Growth. **Unlimited** Success and reaching **Unlimited** Possibilities!

The Capital Improvement Fund Committee

A new committee should be established to concentrate solely on two issues. First, this committee will be responsible for setting and financing long and short-term improvement project goals of the community. A thorough evaluation of the complex must be made to determine these goals. Speaking with building and financial professionals will be necessary to determine what projects should be considered long or short term. Once a plan is implemented the committee will then be charged with raising capital to see its completion. Secondly, the committee will be responsible for ensuring that our commitment to the Metropolis of Chicago is satisfied in a timely manner. It is imperative that we prioritize our Archdiocesan assessment and remain current from month to month. Similar to the Building Fund Committee that was responsible for overseeing the completion of our church from beginning to end, the Capital Improvement Fund Committee will function as a separate entity from the Parish Council and will report to the General Assembly of the church during biannual meetings.

Raising Capital

Raising the necessary capital for successful campaigns and our commitment is obviously the most difficult aspect of the committee’s work. Again, keeping the parishioners abreast of the projects and celebrating accomplishments will hopefully build participation and trust in the process. That said, the committee should focus on five revenue streams. The five are the St. George 30, Yearly Fundraisers, An Endowment Fund, A Memorial Fund, Church Grants.

The St. George 30

The committee will seek parishioners that are willing to commit $1,000.00 per year for at least three years above their stewardship and all other donations to the church. This group will hopefully grow in number over time. These monies will be earmarked solely for the commitment to the Metropolis. These parishioners will be asked to secure their pledge by March of the current year.

Fundraisers

The committee will coordinate at least two major fundraisers for the fund. One event will be held in October every year. There will be a calculated effort to raise more monies at this event. The other event will be held in spring depending on Easter. Because of Easter contributions and upcoming Greekfest contributions, this fundraiser is anticipated to be less profitable. Monies raised at these fundraisers will be allocated to the Metropolis commitment exclusively. Ideally therefore, profits from the October event will be the first portion of our commitment. The St. George 30 monies will serve as the second portion of the commitment. And finally, by the Spring event we will know exactly what monies need to be raised to guarantee our commitment to the Metropolis is satisfied for that current year.

Endowment Fund

The committee will work with a Financial Planning advisor in order to begin the creation of a St. George Endowment Fund. We will seek the advice of the advisor to see what necessary steps must be taken in order for parishioners and friends of St. George to consider donations of cash, securities, real estate or personal property. The advisor that the committee selects would serve as a liaison between the individual and the committee to ensure that all state and federal tax guidelines are followed. Any monies raised from this fund will be exclusively allocated for capital improvements.

The Memorial Fund

Perhaps the most recognizable stream of revenue towards building improvements is the Memorial Fund. For decades, upon the passing of loved ones, families have generously given to this fund. As the church was in need of many items during its construction, Father Constantine would work with individuals and families in order to finish the iconography and furnishings of the church. However, as need has subsided, it is an appropriate time to rethink this fund. Concerning monies in the current Memorial Fund, a sub-committee would be created to work with Father Constantine to create a Wish List of any items needed. The sub-committee would then contact parishioners and families of the deceased that have funds in the memorial account to see if they would like to use available funds to purchase any of those items. If they wish to do so, the monies will be considered earmarked and items removed from the Wish List. Families with monies in the fund will be asked to finalize decisions within a three-week period. Moving forward, upon receipt of any monies to the church Memorial Fund, families will be contacted by the sub-committee in a timely and respectable manner to notify them of the monies received. Families now will be given the choice of selecting items from the Wish List or donating to the church’s new capital improvement fund. The family will be asked for a decision within an appropriate six-week period. It is unproductive to have these monies in a stagnant account.

Church Grants

The committee will work diligently to investigate, apply and hopefully receive any grants available by individuals or corporations working towards supporting and promoting Greek Orthodox churches. These grants do exist and we will definitely make this possible revenue stream part of our planning process.

Conclusion

“It’s only after you’ve stepped out of your comfort zone, that you begin to change, grow, and transform.” It is time for our generation to challenge ourselves as our parents and forefathers did for us. We must strive to leave to our children and grandchildren a robust, financially secure Greek Orthodox community. We have been given this remarkable spiritual home. Let’s go about working towards **Unlimited** possibilities!