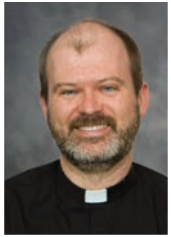


SAINT THOMAS MORE PARISH Annual Stewardship

A GUIDE *for your prayerful consideration*



Faithful People of Saint Thomas More,



This year our parish is celebrating its 60th anniversary! The community celebrated the first two years of Masses on the campus of Avila, while our (first) church was being designed and built. So many of the distinct neighborhoods that surround our property were not yet developed, and parishioners worshipped in what was then the edge of our city.

Growth only happens with change, and the invitation of every parish - and every Christian disciple - is to be open to the changes that build us into more mature members of the Body of Christ. STM has a rich legacy of advocacy for the marginalized, education of our youth, and opportunities for faith formation. Because of the willingness to relinquish what is familiar for the surprise fruits of following the Lord's invitations, our founding members are a good point of reference for this moment.

It is easy to frame a milestone in terms of what has been lost over the years: the loss of rustic farmland for the sake of new homes; the loss of the Benedictine Sisters who originally staffed our school, for the sake of laity equipped to hand on knowledge and faith; the loss of our original church, for the sake of a larger space, encased with the stained-glass stories of salvation. To see only the losses is to miss the gains and fruitfulness that has enriched our parish.

Our forebears offered a forward-thinking vision and trust in the Holy Spirit that allowed our parish to be founded without having any certainty about what God would do with their acts of trust.

At the end of the day, we are beneficiaries of those who risked change for the sake of what lies ahead. Our development and legacy is a testament to those who saw in change not loss, but opportunities for growth in maturity.

I thank you for the investment that you have made to our community through your presence, prayers, and financial gifts. I ask that your generosity continues in this 60th year, and that we all have a continued openness to the pathways that lead us to grow in holiness. And...thank you for being open to change for the sake of blessings we cannot calculate in advance. That openness is a most fitting way to honor the men and women whose fidelity sixty years ago helped birth the fruitful community we have today. Know that your generosity today will lead us into blessings we cannot foresee; blessings born from a trusting heart.

With Gratitude in Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Justin E. Noyes".

Father Justin

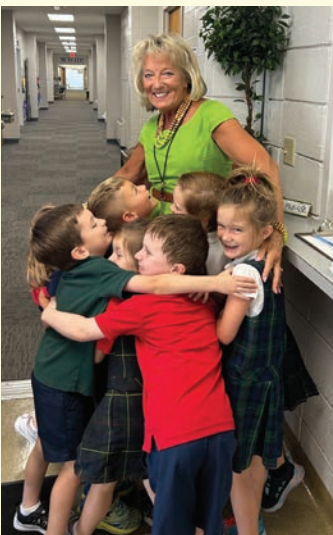
THANK YOU for returning your pledge form!



YOUR PLEDGE HELPS MORE THAN YOU KNOW!

It not only helps parish leadership to budget,

- » It helps us to **verify you are an active parishioner** - even if you only pledge \$1.
- » It helps us **keep your information current**.
- » It helps us know the best way to get important information to you.



YOUR SUPPORT

provides opportunities for our parishioners and parish to grow.

YOUR SUPPORT

helps Saint Thomas More be the church that helps others.

YOUR SUPPORT

is a reminder that none of us are asked to venture through this life alone.

YOUR SUPPORT

is a way for you to give back.

Matching gifts, IRA's & Estate plans

Matching gifts

Check with your employer. You may be able to double your giving!

In 2024 STM received \$20,218 in matching gifts

Tax-Free IRA Gifts

Charitable taxpayers who are 70½ or older can direct "qualified charitable distributions" from their fund administrator directly to STM and other charities of their choice.

in 2024 STM received \$210,244 in IRA QCDs.

MO Scholars

Give and receive a Missouri State tax credit

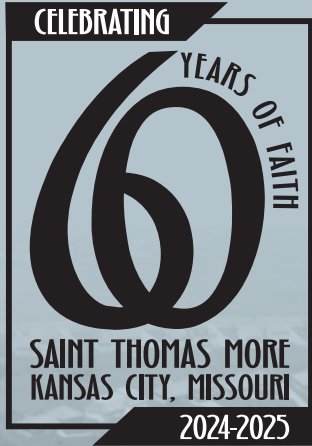
Qualify and receive a scholarship for your child to attend STM School

in 2024 STM received \$304,565 on behalf of 49 students.

Questions?

Contact Tim Waris
942-2492 x218
or tim@stmkc.com

A legacy of faith



Msgr. John F. Huhmann installed as pastor on the feast of Saint Thomas More July 9, 1964.

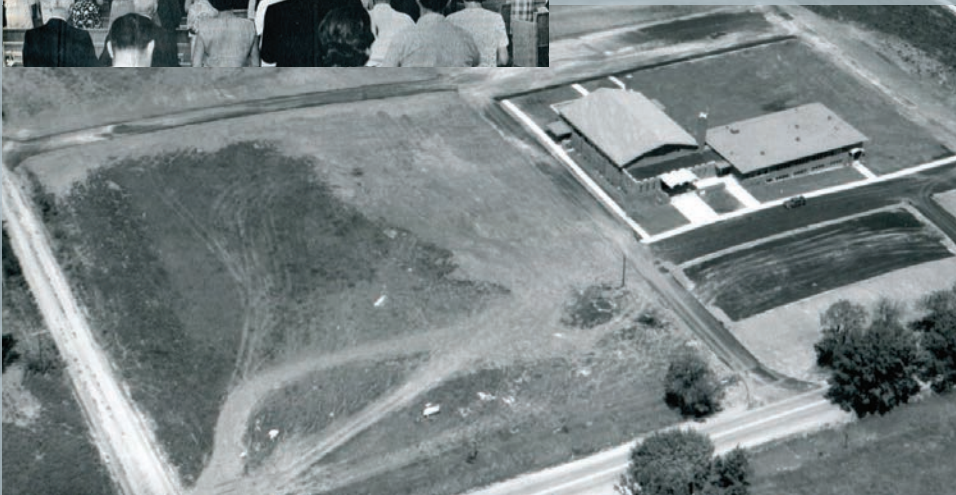


Bishop Helmsing (at left) established Saint Thomas More from Saint Catherine of Siena's territorial limits, where Msgr. Joseph Ruysser was pastor.

Pictured at the STM groundbreaking, from left to right: Bishop Helmsing, Msgr. Ruysser, Msgr. Tighe, Msgr. Huhmann and Msgr. Tierney



Over 400 attended the dedication Mass on Sunday, July 10, 1966.



Aerial photo taken soon after the first church (now the school's Flanagan Hall) and school were completed.

60TH ANNIVERSARY APPAREL



Accessories are also available. 20% percent of the proceeds go back to the parish to support special projects.



ON SALE AT
stm^{parish}.ath^{solutions}.shop

Stewardship Prayer

LOVING GOD,

I come to you in gratitude. All I am and all that I have is a gift from you.
In faith and love, help me to do your will.
I am listening, Lord God.

Give me the wisdom and insight to discern what I have to offer and how you would have me offer it.

Nurture in me a generous heart that I may offer my gifts of faith, time, talent, and possessions to you as an act of faith, to express my love for you and my neighbor.

I am your disciple. Help me to reach out to others as you have reached out to me.

Amen

STEWARDSHIP OF GIFTS
Our gifts, given for all



Children's Choir



Lector



Vacation Bible School

As each one has received a gift,
 use it to serve one another
 as good stewards of God's varied
 grace. -- 1 Peter 12:10



Guatemala Mission



Back-to-School Drive



SPRED (Special Religious Education
 for the Developmentally Delayed)



Green Team
 Blue River Road
 Clean-up



First Sunday Food Drive



Knights of Columbus

Offer your time & talent
 For ideas and opportunities see

- The Guidebook pp.23-24
- See the bulletin
- contact joan@stmkc.com