



**UPON *this*  
ROCK**

*Supporting Our Priests • Strengthening Our Church*

*“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church; and the gates of hell will not prevail against it”.*

Matthew 16:18

### Campaign Prayer

O God, our Rock and our Refuge,  
through the ministry of your priests,  
called from among your priestly people,  
you reveal the constancy of your loving care.

In gratitude for what has been,  
grant us generous hearts  
that we might support our priests in their twilight years  
as they supported us by their faithful service.

In joy for what is now,  
grant us generous hearts  
that we might support the work of our priests and parishes  
to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

In hope for what will be,  
grant us generous hearts  
that we might support the seminarians  
who will serve as priests of the Diocese of Davenport.

Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



Supporting Our Priests • Strengthening Our Church

# A letter from the bishop

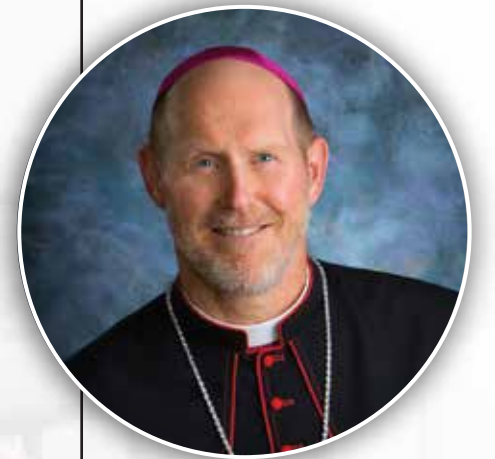
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When Jesus asked his apostles who they thought he was, the apostle, Simon, exclaimed, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Mt. 16:16). So solid was Simon’s proclamation that the Lord renamed him Peter (in Latin, petrus, which means rock) and added, “upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18).

The Church’s foundation is Christ himself and we, the members of his mystical body united in baptism and gathered into a holy communion in the Eucharist, have Christ as our head (Col. 1:18). The faithful of the Diocese of Davenport have been giving witness to their discipleship since our founding 140 years ago.

Our capital campaign, Upon This Rock, gives us the opportunity to reflect on God’s abundant blessings of the past, to praise him for his goodness in the present, and to entrust ourselves to his boundless love and mercy for generations to come. In particular, we are called at this pivotal time to address the pressing financial costs in providing for our retired and elderly priests, to secure stable funding to form and educate tomorrow’s priests, and to address the many needs our parishes face at the parochial level.

Please take time to review this case statement, which elaborates on the goals of supporting our aged priests and our seminarians. I ask everyone to join me in carefully, intentionally and prayerfully discerning how we can respond to this extraordinary appeal. Those assisted by this campaign have given their lives for us, the Church. It is important that we respond with a generosity that is just as heroic.



*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas R. Zinkula".

Most Rev. Thomas R. Zinkula  
Bishop of Davenport



Diocese of Davenport

# Upon This Rock campaign goal: \$28 million



Everything we have is a gift from God. We are asked to return a portion in gratitude and with the faith that our reliance is upon his goodness and providential love.

Embracing this simple understanding of stewardship puts joy into our hearts and is a foundation of our faith. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, what we return to God in this campaign will have an impact on our diocese for many years to come.

**\$16.7 million**  
or **60%**

Priests' Retirement & Health Care Funding

**\$5.7 million**  
or **20%**

Seminarian Education

**\$5.6 million**  
or **20%**

Strengthening Parishes

**NOTE:** Campaign expenses are paid through a gift from the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Davenport



*"We had talked about this capital campaign while I was still bishop but decided it wasn't the right time. Now it IS the right time. Funding for priests' retirement, seminarians' education and parish needs is necessary and important. Please support this campaign!"*

**Bishop Martin Amos, Bishop Emeritus of Davenport and honorary campaign chair**



*"When approached to consider a gift for this important campaign, it was easy for me to respond with a commitment that would benefit our priests' retirement and health care. All of us have experienced firsthand the faith, mercy and commitment our priests have provided to our community, and we have been blessed by their service. So, providing to help them after many years of selfless commitment was an easy yes."*

**John H. Anderson, Chief Executive Officer, Quad City Bank & Trust Co., and honorary campaign chair**



*"The Upon This Rock Campaign helps us see our diocese in a profound light. May this effort honor where we've been, aid our parishes and our diocese in the present time and strengthen us for the days ahead. As they have been in the past, I am sure our parishioners will be generous in supporting this campaign."*

**Msgr. John Hyland, honorary campaign chair**



**Victory Goal: \$28 million**

**Priests' health care and retirement: \$16.7 million**

Meets about 70% of the expected future need for priests' health care and retirement funding

**Seminarians' education costs: \$5.7 million**

Strengthens a fund that without action could be depleted in 2024

**Individual parish needs: \$5.6 million**

20% of what is raised by a parish is returned to that parish for its own use

**Priests' Aid Society assessment: 25% reduction**

Parish assessment reduced by 25% for at least five years

**Challenge Goal: \$26 million**

**Priests' health care and retirement: \$15.6 million**

Meets about 65% of the expected future need

**Seminarians' education costs: \$5.2 million**

Strengthens the fund

**Individual parish needs: \$5.2 million**

20% parish share

**Priests' Aid Society assessment: 15% reduction**

Parish assessment reduced by at least 15% for at least five years

**Celebration Goal: \$24 million**

**Priests' health care and retirement: \$14 million**

Meets about 55% of the expected future need

**Seminarians' education costs: \$5.2 million**

Same as Challenge Goal

**Individual parish needs: \$4.8 million**

20% parish share

**Priests' Aid Society assessment: Frozen**

Parish assessment is unchanged for at least five years

VICTORY

CHALLENGE

CELEBRATION

# Priests' retirement and health care funding: \$16.7 million



## A thank you for a life of service

### Throughout our lives, our priests walk with us.

We most often experience a priest's ministry at Mass when the church offers us the opportunity to receive Christ in the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We are fed spiritually through Word and Sacrament, drawing closer to Christ in faithful discipleship.

### Yet it's easy to forget the many other ways a priest accompanies us in life:

- At baptism as we become members of the Body of Christ, which is a life-changing experience, sometimes before we are able even to crawl.
- When he gives us our first Holy Communion, and when he absolves our sins as he ministers to us in the person of Christ.
- In the administering of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, in which we experience God's healing and merciful love.
- At joyous and sorrowful times, such as at a wedding, at a funeral or in spiritual direction.
- In more "normal" times, whether at a parish event or committee meeting, or at our homes for the blessing of a house.

In all these moments, priests navigate many of the same challenges we do, including health care needs and the hope of a comfortable retirement. The Upon This Rock Campaign gives us all the opportunity to offer a response in gratitude for all that our priests have done for us during a life of service.

Yet even as we recognize our debt of gratitude, the Diocese of Davenport faces a costly predicament. **As of 2021, 73% of all diocesan priests either were retired or within 10 years of the retirement age of 70.**

## The Priests' Aid Society

For decades the Priests' Aid Society—an organization separate from the Diocese of Davenport and governed by its own board—has been instrumental in helping diocesan priests cover the cost of health care and retirement.

The organization relies on two main income sources: the investment income of its fund and an annual assessment of parishes. With so many priest retirements on the horizon and health care costs rising significantly in recent years, the Priests' Aid Society's current income structure will not be able to keep up without additional funding.

### Actuarial study of the needs

As of late 2021, the Priests' Aid Society had about \$15 million in its fund for the health care and retirement costs for priests. To gain an understanding of how much would be needed to ensure that the Priests' Aid Society could keep up with its growing costs, the Diocese of Davenport engaged the services of the firm Gabriel, Roeder, Smith and Co. (GRS), a national actuarial and benefits

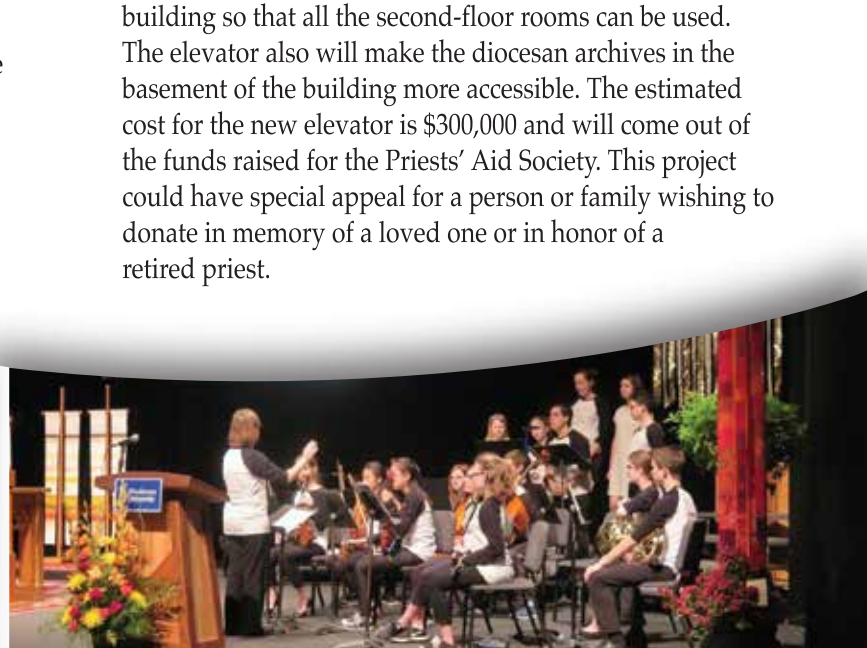
consulting firm that specializes in such questions for U.S. dioceses. In its report, GRS forecast that the Priests' Aid Society would need an additional \$24 million to fund completely the health care and retirement needs of all diocesan priests while also eliminating the Priests' Aid annual assessment of parishes.

**The Upon This Rock Campaign's \$28 million goal includes more than \$16 million for priests' retirement and health care costs, a major step toward fortifying the fund for decades to come.**

Reaching the goal means the annual Priests' Aid Society assessment of parishes will be reduced by 25% for at least five years. (This assessment is separate from the Annual Diocesan Appeal, which funds a variety of programs and ministries.)

### An elevator to give retired priests a lift

The St. Vincent Center is home for a number of retired diocesan priests. The retirement wing lacks an elevator, which means that several rooms on the second floor often go unused. Barring significant changes in the cost or need of the elevator, the Upon This Rock Campaign will provide an elevator to be constructed on the south side of the building so that all the second-floor rooms can be used. The elevator also will make the diocesan archives in the basement of the building more accessible. The estimated cost for the new elevator is \$300,000 and will come out of the funds raised for the Priests' Aid Society. This project could have special appeal for a person or family wishing to donate in memory of a loved one or in honor of a retired priest.



# Seminarian education and formation: \$5.7 million

# Strengthening parishes: \$5.6 million

## Vocations are only a Holy Spirit away

The men who answer the call of the Holy Spirit to the priesthood drive our belief in a bright future for our diocese and the Church.

Yet there is work to do. Along with an increasing number of priests reaching retirement, there has also been a declining number of seminarians for the Diocese of Davenport. In 2021, there were eight seminarians. Until recently, a typical year would see a total of 11-14 seminarians in the discernment process.

The Upon This Rock Campaign aims to answer for the foreseeable future a question that can deter a man from entering or continuing in the seminary: "How can I afford it?"

A fund managed by the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Davenport has covered the costs of seminary education and formation in recent years. That fund was bolstered by an effort in 2015-16 that generated about \$500,000 from donors. That investment, as well as several large additional gifts in

recent years and investment income, has allowed the foundation to continue to cover the quickly rising education costs of seminarians – the total runs about \$55,000 per year per seminarian. However, about \$100,000 per year is being withdrawn from the fund to cover the costs that go beyond investment income and the amount raised during the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Without additional money, the fund for seminarians could be depleted as soon as 2024.

## What else can we do?

The Upon This Rock Campaign goals include \$5.7 million for our seminarians' education and formation costs. Meanwhile, the diocesan Vocations Office is dedicated to promoting vocations. All of us can assist in these ways:

- Take time to pray for, speak positively about and encourage vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life.
- Reflect on your own vocation and strengthen your personal relationship with Christ.
- Educate our young people about the importance of silent prayer and taking the time to truly listen to God's voice in our hearts.

## For your parish, a way to strengthen itself

Our parish is our faith community, led by our pastor and made up of people with whom we share a love of Christ. Our parish's desire is to spread our love and build up our spiritual home. For every dollar a parish raises in the Upon This Rock Campaign, the parish will have 20% returned to it for a purpose determined by that parish. **When a parish exceeds its fundraising goal, 80% of each additional dollar raised will be returned to the parish.**

The parish share can go toward capital projects, such as new construction or renovations, but funds can also be used for:

- Evangelization
- Outreach
- Contingency or "rainy day" fund
- Debt retirement
- Additional staffing
- A parish in need

The overriding goal for this aspect of the campaign is to strengthen all of our parishes and set up a more solid foundation for the future.

*"The time has come to prepare for and look to the future regarding priests' retirement and health care. Pledging over three years gives donors the opportunity to give without it being a financial burden. And parish sharing can let a parish build a 'nest egg' for future expensive obligations, such as building maintenance and repair."*

Charles and Karen Rubey, St. Mary Parish, Fairfield



*"We need to take care of our priests after they have served us. We need more priests to take their place. And we need to keep our parishes viable."*

Kathy Boeding, St. James Parish, St. Paul



# Frequently asked questions

## Q. What is a capital campaign?

A. A capital campaign is an effort to raise money in a fairly short period of time to pay for a significant project or build up a large fund for future use. For a Catholic diocese or parish, this refers to gifts and pledges over and above parishioners' regular giving to the Sunday collection. Parishioners who make pledges to the Diocese of Davenport's campaign will have three years to fulfill their commitment.

## Q. Why does the diocese need a campaign?

A. The diocese is on solid footing, but the future will bring significant financial challenges as the diocese seeks to fund priests' retirement and health care costs and the cost of education for seminarians. With a 20 percent parish share, the campaign also has the potential to strengthen parishes across the diocese.

## Q. When will the campaign take place?

A. Preparations for the campaign began in September 2021, and the active campaign will take place in three waves, the last of which will conclude in mid-2023.

## Q. What are the parishes' responsibilities?

A. Each pastor will appoint key volunteers who will work with the diocese and the Steier Group to form a campaign team. The parish team will help with campaign events and make personal visits to other parishioners to follow up on requests for gifts. Priests also will be asked to help with solicitations of some prospective donors. Every parish will determine the projects to which the parish share of funds raised will be directed.

## Q. What is the state of diocesan finances? Is this a desperate situation?

A. The diocesan financial picture is strong; the amount of assets has grown in recent years and investments are doing well. The Annual Diocesan Appeal has remained steady in recent years. This is not an emergency situation. The diocese is looking ahead at future needs for retired priests and at the need to remove any obstacles it can for seminarians, those now in formation and those to come.

## Q. What's the basic financial situation for retired priests?

A. During active ministry, priests are provided housing. They are responsible for their own housing costs in retirement, and situations vary widely for retired priests. They live on a mix of personal savings, Social Security and a monthly stipend of about \$2,000 from the Priests' Aid Society.

## Q. Doesn't the Annual Diocesan Appeal pay for retired priests' costs?

A. A small percentage of the ADA goes to the Priests' Aid Society as the diocese's payment for priests who are assigned to diocesan duties outside of parishes. In other words, the diocese is assessed just as parishes are. No other money from the ADA goes to the Priests' Aid Society.

## Q. I thought the last campaign (around 2009) was used for retired priests and seminarians. Why do we need more money?

A. Less than 20% of the money raised in that \$22 million campaign was for seminarians and retired priests. That money has worked as it was supposed to, helping the Priests' Aid Society and the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Davenport fund those needs until now. (The foundation handles the seminarians' education costs, operating distinctly from the diocese.) Over that time, the needs have grown dramatically as more priests have retired, health care costs have risen and the cost of educating seminarians has exploded.

## Q. Will these funds be at risk from any future lawsuits against the diocese?

A. No. The funds will not go to the Diocese of Davenport. Any donations will go to the "Upon This Rock Campaign" and will be under the management of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Davenport, which is a separate legal entity from the diocese.

You can find these and additional questions and answers at [www.davenportdiocese.org/campaign](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/campaign).

# Budgeting your pledge over 3 YEARS

The chart below shows how you can fulfill your pledge depending on how you schedule your payments.

Total Pledge (over 3 years)	Annual Payment	Semi-Annual Payment	Quarterly Payment	Monthly Payment	Daily Commitment
\$250,000	\$83,333	\$41,667	\$20,833	\$6,944	\$228.31
\$100,000	\$33,333	\$16,667	\$ 8,333	\$2,778	\$ 91.32
\$ 75,000	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$ 6,250	\$2,083	\$ 68.49
\$ 50,000	\$16,667	\$ 8,333	\$ 4,167	\$1,389	\$ 45.66
\$ 25,000	\$ 8,333	\$ 4,167	\$ 2,083	\$ 694	\$ 22.83
\$ 18,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 500	\$ 16.44
\$ 12,600	\$ 4,200	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,050	\$ 350	\$ 11.51
\$ 7,200	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,200	\$ 600	\$ 200	\$ 6.58
\$ 5,400	\$ 1,800	\$ 900	\$ 450	\$ 150	\$ 4.93
\$ 3,600	\$ 1,200	\$ 600	\$ 300	\$ 100	\$ 3.29
\$ 1,800	\$ 600	\$ 300	\$ 150	\$ 50	\$ 1.64
\$ _____	Other				

**A gift at any level is helpful and appreciated!**

## Making a gift that is meaningful to you

Selecting the best gift plan depends on your personal financial situation and goals. Each individual's situation is unique, and tax laws often change, so donors are encouraged to consult with their financial advisers to determine which method of contributing is most beneficial.

## Methods of giving

### Automatic withdrawal from checking

For the ease of setting up your pledge once and not having to remember each time you need to make a payment, this is a terrific way to go.

### Credit card

This method is also easy to use and removes the need to remember each payment installment. Additionally, you may be able to earn points using your credit card.

### Cash or check by mail

Envelopes will be provided if you choose this payment method. Reminders with payment envelopes will be sent to you throughout the year.

For each of the preceding methods, please provide payment information on your pledge card or visit [davenportdiocese.org/campaign](http://davenportdiocese.org/campaign) to set up the payment online.



Diocese of Davenport

## Stocks and securities

The transfer of stocks and securities is an attractive method of payment to many and has significant tax benefits for the donor. Visit [davenportdiocese.org/campaign](http://davenportdiocese.org/campaign) for more information and to set up a transfer of stocks or securities, or call Michael Hoffman, Director of Development and Stewardship, at 563-888-4252.

## Corporate matching gifts

A matching gift program provided through your employer or board membership may allow you to increase the value of your gift.

## Planned gifts/estate planning

Planned giving is the process of carefully selecting the best method and asset for making a charitable gift. Such a gift can enable you to take full advantage of tax laws to accomplish your financial and charitable goals. These gifts can include gifts of real estate or life insurance, bequests by will or living trust, charitable remainder trusts, pensions or other options. For more information on any of these, call Michael Hoffman, Director of Development and Stewardship, at 563-888-4252.

If you are age 72 or older and have certain retirement accounts, also consider the use of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). A charitable gift through this mechanism has potential benefits both for the donor and the diocese. Again, donors are encouraged to consult with their financial advisers to determine how a planned gift might work best in their particular circumstance.

# UPON *this* ROCK



Supporting Our Priests • Strengthening Our Church

*"Whether we are asking for money or giving money we are drawn together by God, who is about to do a new thing through our collaboration."*

Fr. Henri Nouwen, "A Spirituality of Fundraising"

## ***Campaign Leadership***

### **Diocesan Leadership**

Most Rev. Thomas R. Zinkula,  
Bishop of Davenport

Very Rev. Thom Hennen, Vicar General

Deacon David Montgomery,  
Chancellor and Chief of Staff

Michael Hoffman,  
Director of Development and Stewardship

Tom Tallman, Chief Financial Officer

### **Campaign General Chairs**

Deacon Michael Snyder  
Mike and Kelly Poster

### **Honorary Chairs**

Bishop Martin Amos  
Msgr. John Hyland  
John H. Anderson

### **Campaign Cabinet**

Ted and Dianne Haas  
Pat Kessel  
Lori Mallory  
Chris McCormick-Pries  
David Nelson  
Roger and Barb Reilly  
Jerry and Dian Schleier

### **Priests Committee**

Fr. George McDaniel (Chair)  
Fr. Ross Epping (Vice Chair)  
Fr. Rich Adam  
Fr. Kevin Anstey  
Fr. Timothy Armbruster, CPPS  
Fr. Jason Crossen  
Fr. Dan Dorau  
Fr. Charles Fladung  
Fr. Rudy Juarez  
Fr. Stephen Page  
Fr. John Spiegel  
Fr. Chris Weber

### **Development Counsel**

The Steier Group



Diocese of Davenport  
780 W. Central Park Ave.  
Davenport, Iowa 52804-1901