

My name is Nancy Jones. I am here today to talk about the Faithful To Our Mission Campaign. Just like many of you out there, my family (the Schlegel's) has been a member of St. Austin parish for many years. My Dad attended the old St. Austin school and I hate to admit this, but so did I! We won't talk about the years! Daddy loved to attend and usher at 7:30 Mass every Sunday, and Mom was the Librarian at St. Austin's school until she retired back in '89. I remember attending Mass in the old St. Austin church when I was a kid. It was built in 1908 when the parish began. I'm sure you've seen the photos of the old church over in the foyer of the church offices and in this brochure. Our parish community outgrew the old church and this church was built in 1953. I remember how excited everyone was to attend Mass in this big, beautiful new church.

After I graduated from UT, I was married right here in this church and then moved away, but would always attend Mass here when I was in town visiting my family. It was when I moved back here in the early 2000's that I noticed the outside of the church was beginning to show some deterioration. And now, with the crumbling rock, we have a huge safety issue. Not just for parishioners, but for the hundreds of people passing by here each day. Our wonderful church, tower and rectory are in desperate need of repair.

When Ray Mechler called to ask me for my pledge and to work on the pledge team, I knew right away that it was something I should do. Everyone that I have contacted to support the campaign has been so positive – in fact, the response has been overwhelming. Our campaign goal is \$4 million, to be used to repair the parish buildings, enhance the physical appearance of our church, renovate the bathrooms, pay down the parish debt and renovate rectory offices for usable parish space. We are at \$1.5 million right now and with your help, we will reach our goal.

For those of you who have already pledged, thank you so much. If you have not yet pledged, I ask you to make a decision right away as we are just a few weeks away from our final goal. You can talk to Jennifer Anderson or Father Chuck or any of us on the pledge team. We would be very happy to meet with you at your convenience to discuss the campaign and answer any questions.

Just so you know, the pledges cover a three period and there are many payment options.

All of us are here because we love St. Austin's and the Paulists. I imagine many of you are like me and you live in another parish but choose to come here. Do you know that we have 2000 families and over 85 zip codes? Amazing, huh? And we continue to grow. Thanks to your great support and your commitment to this important campaign, we can be confident that St. Austin will continue to be the vibrant spiritual community that it has always been and will be for many years to come.

In closing, I quote Psalm 116::12 How can I repay the LORD for all the great good done for me?

Thank you.