

From Your Pastor

Dear Lourdes Family,

Justice and peace are the cornerstones of a compelling challenge for us all to live responsibly and build a just society. By answering the challenge to do what is right and just throughout our 108 years, Lourdes has earned the proud reputation as a justice-driven church.

As we look to the future and a new spiritual home, we will continue to activate our faith with compassion by allocating 10% of the Capital Campaign for social justice initiatives. We are committed to racial equity, climate justice, reducing economic disparities, and peace and security for all.

Please join me in supporting our Capital Campaign and continuing our work for justice and peace.

With the love of Christ,



May God move within us
and give us
eyes to see with,
ears to hear with,
and hands that
your work might
be done.

—A Dominican Prayer



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

July 2021

Justice and Faith

by Raveena Alli

Being an active member of the Lourdes community and family for the past 14 years has been an honor. Lourdes has truly been instrumental in shaping my passion for social justice, my desire for needed and long overdue systemic change, and my vision for a better, more equitable world where everyone is loved unconditionally.

With the onset of the pandemic in 2020 we seemingly caught a glimpse of the whole world coming together as we all experienced major change. In May, that togetherness I witnessed was rocked by the killing of George Floyd and I felt shattered. What I thought was unity during a pandemic was quickly marred by divisiveness and hate. The urge to learn and understand more consumed and confused me because I could not understand the injustice surrounding me.

Our Lady of Lourdes was one of the resources that guided me through some of the confusion. The book discussion of *I am Still Here* by Austin Channing Brown helped me understand some of the stereotypes of the African American community. I also joined the Stand for Justice protests with the church because I believe the Catholic faith and social justice are extremely interconnected. The Catholic Church teaches us to love everyone as we love ourselves, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, values - no matter what. God teaches us to live together in harmony and unity.

Lourdes has been instrumental in shaping my vision for social justice through virtual book discussions and the JustFaith program which is a series designed to help dismantle racism within the Catholic church. As I look to the future of our church, I am excited to welcome new members to our new spiritual home, build a closer community, and see more youth getting involved in activism, awareness and peacefully and constructively using their voices for much needed change.



Blessed & Grateful

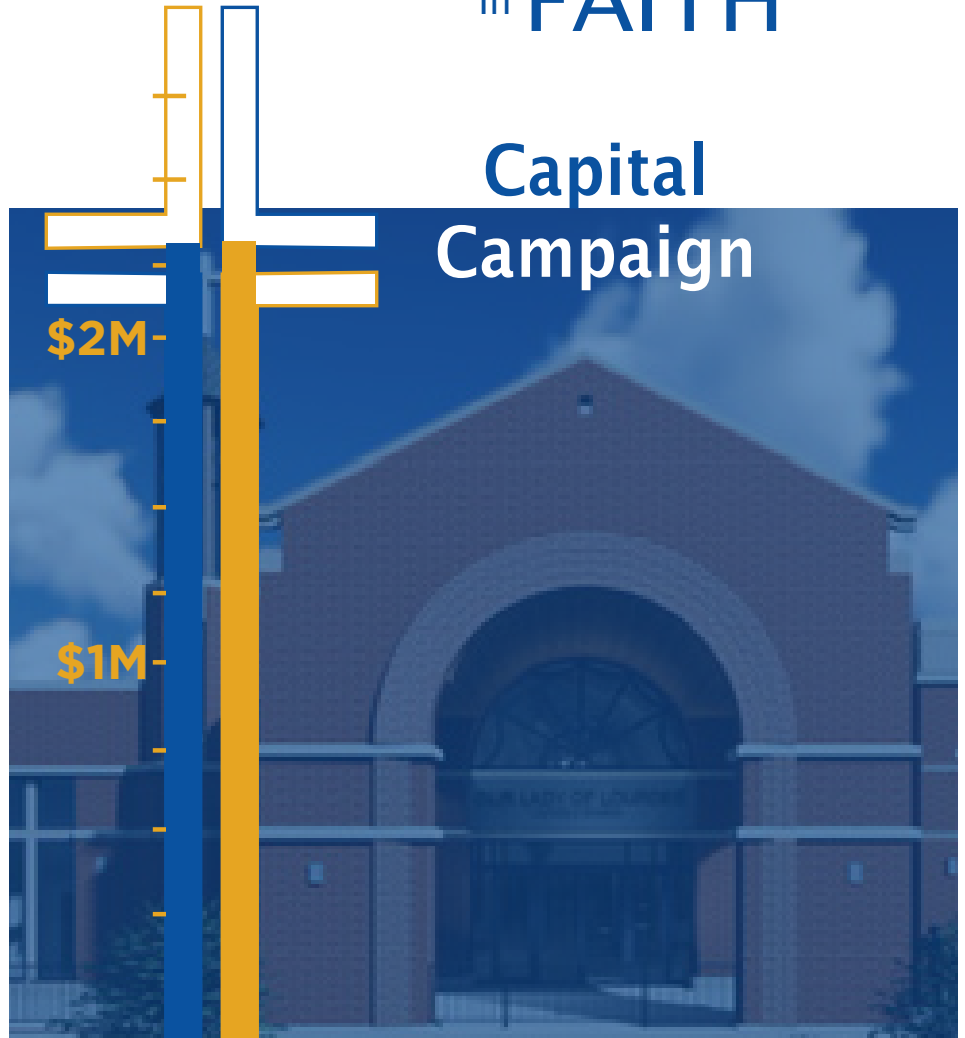
At Lourdes, we have been very fortunate to have religious women as part of our community. This started with Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and has continued the last several decades with the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa.

The Dominican Sisters have been true witnesses of justice for decades, inspiring and impacting many at Lourdes and the broader Atlanta community. They have been advocates and friends of immigrants and refugees, persons living with HIV and AIDS, and the poor and marginalized. They live and love guided by their faith to fulfill their call for a more holy and just church.

The time has come for their next chapter. They will be closing the Penn Avenue House and leaving Atlanta to pursue the next phase in their ministry. We are grateful beyond words for their generous spirit of care and community, and we will miss them deeply!



Goal \$3M



Capital Campaign

APRIL 9 - JULY 16, 2021
Total pledged \$2,289,467



CONFIRMING YOUR CAMPAIGN PLEDGE

Confirmation letters have been sent to all families who have generously pledged. Please review the letter for accuracy in the following areas:

- Total three-year pledge amount
- Pledge payment installment (i.e., monthly, annually, etc.)
- Amount paid to date

Please call the church office at 404.522.6776 if your information is incorrect or you did not receive a letter. Thank you.