

CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
— OF —  
WICHITA

## FEASIBILITY STUDY

*“I have come that they  
might have life and have it  
more abundantly.”*

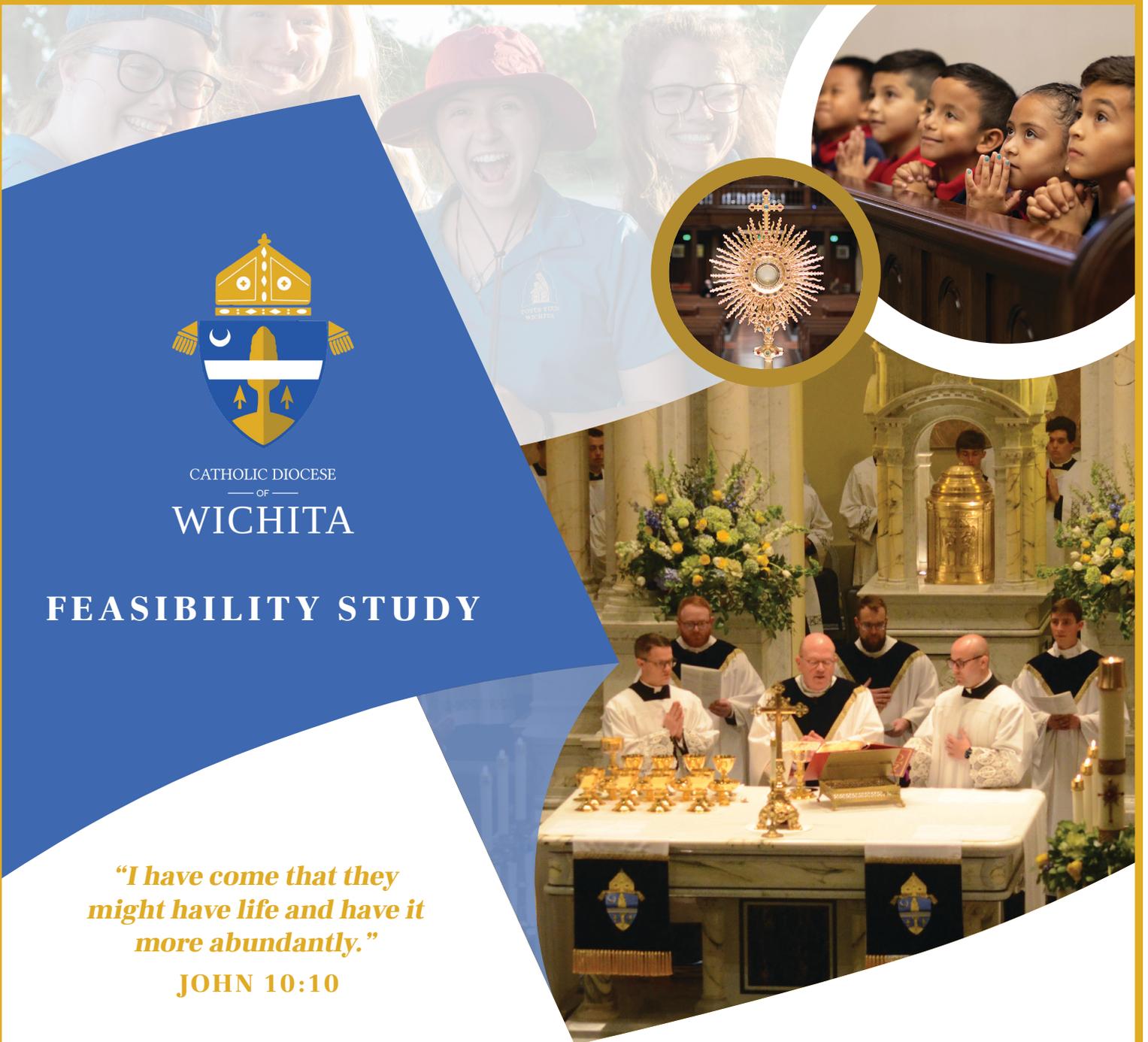
**JOHN 10:10**

### OUR VISION

The Diocese of Wichita strives to live stewardship as a way of life. As stewards, we see everything we have, everything we are, and everything we will be as a gift from God and respond in love and gratitude with a total gift of self. We use our time, talent, and treasure to grow closer to God and each other and ultimately to bring Him honor and glory. We give and serve not out of obligation and duty, but of sincere desire, and in thanksgiving for all that He has done for us. For the steward, this way of life and giving of love is as natural as breathing itself. For years, parishioners have given generously, sacrificially and proportionally to support the mission of the Church through our parishes and broader diocesan ministries.

After months of prayerful study and discussion, Bishop Carl A. Kemme, along with diocesan and lay leaders, have identified several extraordinary needs that go beyond the day-to-day. Needs that help fulfill our mission to “go forth faithfully to preach the Gospel to all God’s children and to evangelize today’s culture.”

The Diocese of Wichita is considering a major fundraising effort to address these important needs, but we need your help – your voice and your gifts. The decisions we make now and the steps we take can help the Catholic Church flourish in south-central Kansas – not just for today, but for generations to come.



# OUR PRIORITIES

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL TEACHER SALARY ENHANCEMENTS | \$25 million

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wichita are award-winning institutions that educate the whole person and strive to consistently produce extraordinary students, future leaders, and people of faith. To continue that tradition of excellence, it is imperative to recruit and retain the very best educators. The most effective way for us to do that is to offer competitive salaries.

Our goal is to provide funds for our parish schools to increase teacher salaries to between 85% and 90% of the local public school salary scale, a significant increase from the current diocesan average of 72%. At one time our Catholic School salaries were competitive, but large wage increases have taken place in most public schools in Kansas over the past five years due to litigation in the state. Now, in a state with a severe teacher shortage, the parishes with schools need the support of the diocese in order to attract and retain teachers.

An endowment fund will be established at each parish with a school where the pastor can oversee the usage of funds to enhance teacher salaries.

This parish-based strategy ensures that stewardship remains the primary funding source for our schools, and it upholds subsidiarity and parish autonomy. These parish-based endowments are one important way to address the issue of teacher salaries. Including this goal in a potential campaign also brings attention to the issues facing our schools and makes clear that all parishes – even those without schools – have a role in supporting each other.

## CATHOLIC YOUTH AND FAMILY CAMP | \$15 million

The diocese has long desired to own and operate a Catholic youth and family camp, a place where kids can truly experience the great outdoors and the glory of the world that God created. We desire a space where kids can run around, be loud and just be kids, an environment away from their everyday world. A place where children of the diocese can have a true encounter with Jesus Christ and one another. We will incorporate the values of the Catholic Church and our diocese, including the stewardship way of life, into all aspects of the camp.

The diocese currently runs Camp Totus Tuus at a rented location near Lyons, KS. This space comes with several practical, physical, and scheduling-related limitations. We envision a Catholic youth and family camp with a chapel for Mass and adoration, spacious dining and gathering areas inside a large recreation building, several modern and comfortable cabins, and the capacity to expand camp programming to serve even more youth, families, and other parish groups on a year-round basis.

The benefits of such an immersive camp are numerous: campers will learn skills in a camp setting that can be difficult to impart in today's culture and society; they'll form lifelong friendships; and we'll promote our diocese's youth-focused missionary discipleship and the ministry of our pastoral plan. Primarily, though, the main benefit of a Catholic camp is the combination of faith and fun. The camp experience really can enhance the faith lives of both the campers and the staffers – as dozens of our priests and religious leaders can attest in their own experience as former campers and camp staff.

Recently, the diocese identified and is pursuing the purchase of a property in Reno County, north and west of Wichita, that is ideal for our needs, including usage for year-round programming. Funds raised during a campaign would support an operations endowment to develop the property, construction of cabins, a chapel, and activity center, long-term planning for the ongoing needs of the camp facilities, and additional money for scholarships, ensuring that affordability is not a barrier for any family who desires a faith-filled camp experience for their child.



## HELPING THOSE WHO ARE UNDERPRIVILEGED | 10% of all funds raised

Caring for those who are underprivileged has been part of what it means to be a Christian from the very beginning. Jesus himself lived in solidarity with, and ministered in loving action to, the poor and vulnerable. Our faith compels us to do the same today. As a diocesan family, we have a long history of supporting ministries that assist those in need, such as The Lord's Diner, St. Anthony Family Shelter, Guadalupe Clinic and in the winter months, Warming Souls Shelter program. As Catholics, we have both the privilege and responsibility to continue to find new ways to serve those who are less fortunate. The diocese intends to commit 10% of all monies raised to help our neighbors in need.

We will be evaluating over the next several months how to best provide this support and whether it is through the development of a new ministry or providing greater assistance to an existing ministry. Our hope is to engage members of the diocesan family in how best to direct funds so that we can more fully serve the underprivileged in our communities.



## CATHEDRAL DOMES AND WINDOWS RESTORATION | \$12 million

### *Replace Copper on Domes*

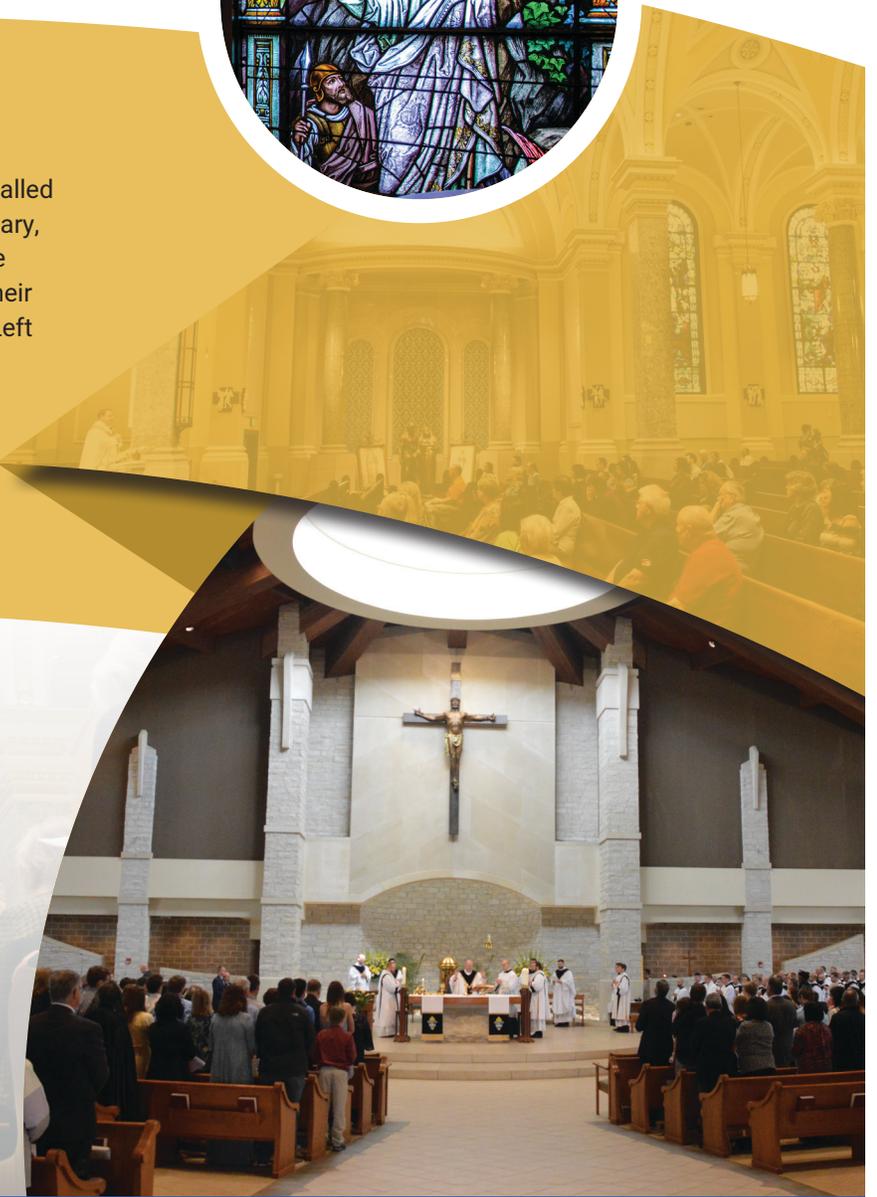
When the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, also known as St. Mary's Cathedral, was built 110 years ago, the copper domes likely stood out like beacons, shining, and drawing the faithful to the physical centerpiece of our diocese. Time and the elements have dulled the look of the domes, but beyond the exterior façade, critical moisture seals protecting and preserving the diocese's mother church can no longer be ignored. The copper itself, which has a lifespan of 100 years, is not endangering the dome structure or the masonry that supports it, but the existing moisture seals are failing as the current copper expands and contracts with the weather. Installation of new copper and updated thermal resistant moisture seals will ensure that the most recent work done on our cathedral as a result of the TOGETHER Vision is not lost. The domes were patched in our last campaign, buying us another ten years, but full replacement is now critical.

### *Refresh Stained-Glass Windows*

The cathedral's stained-glass windows, which were installed in 1927 and depict two sets of the mysteries of the Rosary, remain one of the buildings' most striking features. Like the copper domes, time and the elements have taken their toll, and as a result the windows need to be re-leaded. Left untreated, the windows will sag and bulge, allowing for moisture that will eventually render the windows beyond repair. Re-leading stained glass is an in-depth, specialized process that will take significant time, effort, and investment.

## INDIVIDUAL PARISH NEEDS | *20% of funds raised by parishes*

Every parish has needs it can address to better serve God's people. If the diocese moves forward with a major fundraising effort, 20% of the funds collected by individual parishes will be returned to those parishes for local projects and dreams they identify.



# YOUR VOICE

As a member of the Church, you play an important role in how we promote and live out our Diocesan Pastoral plan to become fully alive as missionary disciples. We want to hear from you!

With the help of the Steier Group – a national Catholic fundraising firm – our diocese is conducting a feasibility study. Over the next few months, everyone in our diocese will be asked to provide input through either a brief personal interview or to complete a survey by mail or online. Your input will help us gauge support for a campaign and determine realistic fundraising goals. Thank you for your time and feedback!



## QUESTIONS?

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