



In 2005 Bishop Wenski led our diocese in a process of reflection. Guided by the Holy Spirit, this diocesan Synod brought together over 1000 Catholics, who took a prayerful look at the remarkable growth of the Church in Central Florida. Over a period of 18 months, they were encouraged to seek God's will for the people and parishes of our diocese and to create a roadmap for the future.

Just as the larger Church must prepare for the challenges that lie ahead, so too must our parish family. Here at St. Mary Magdalen, we recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of our parish. In recognition of this milestone occasion, we came together as a parish community to discern our own shared vision and values. After much prayer and examination, we identified our most pressing needs and established a pastoral plan that will guide our ministries and preserve our Catholic mission

and heritage – for this generation and the next.

In looking to the future, we must ensure that both our parish and our larger Church family have the resources to continue this life-changing work. *Alive in Christ* – the first capital campaign for the Diocese of Orlando - is designed to help us take the next important step. Through *Alive in Christ*, the Lord is calling us to **Grow, Lead & Share** our living faith by **building our St. Mary Magdalen Parish and School Endowment Funds**.



Endowments offer a deeply meaningful and visionary way to support and sustain our Gospel-centered mission and ministries. Gifts to an endowment fund are restricted, with the principal remaining intact. Only the perpetual stream of interest is used for the endowment's intended purpose. In many ways a gift to an endowment is like a freshly planted garden that in due season yields abundant fruit. Gifts from the faithful are seeds of growth, providing a steady source of income from which capital needs, special projects and emergencies can be met.

We began our Parish Endowment Fund in March, 2005. Once this fund reaches \$1 million, the interest will be utilized to support, strengthen, and enhance our 185+ parish ministries, which help all of us to **GROW** in our living relationship with Christ. Please refer to our recent parish biennial report, mailed in January, for a complete accounting of both the Parish and School Endowment Funds.

Income from our School Endowment Fund, established in 2001, provides need-based scholarship funds for students who wish to attend St. Mary Magdalen School. This sustainable, long-term source of tuition assistance helps ensure that a Catholic education remains accessible and affordable for our young people, who will **LEAD** our Church into the future. The endowment also provides for the school's capital needs.



We are grateful for the many faithful and dedicated families who graciously **SHARE** their blessings through regular tithes to our Sunday offertory collection (Sacrificial Giving). It is because of your generosity and sacrifice that our parish is able to minister and to serve. As Christian stewards, we know that special needs require a truly special response from our parish community. In order to grow our endowments and generate long-term sustainability for our ministries, funding is needed above and beyond the regular tithe to the Sunday offertory.

Our fair-share goal for the diocesan-wide *Alive in Christ* campaign at St. Mary Magdalen is \$2 million dollars. 100% of the net proceeds our parish receives from the *Alive in Christ* Campaign will be used to build and expand our Parish and School endowments, which together, support **ALL** of our many parish ministries. St. Mary Magdalen Parish will receive 25% of every dollar raised up to the goal, with the remaining balance (75%) shared with the Catholic Church in Central Florida to help fund Synod priorities. Once the \$2 million goal is reached, St. Mary Magdalen will receive 75% of every dollar raised over our goal.

At St. Mary Magdalen, we strive to fulfill Christ's mission in our world while at the same time working hard to live within our means. However, we know that not every parish and mission in our diocese is as fortunate as we are. As members of the Universal Church, we welcome the opportunity to help support the needs and shared resources of our larger Church family and to help fund the new projects that emerged from our diocesan Synod through *Alive in Christ*.