Proud Past: Saint Bede Catholic Church has brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of Williamsburg and the surrounding area for over 75 years. Our vibrant and growing family demonstrates our love for the Lord in Word, Worship, Community, Service and Witness. Since the construction of our church on Ironbound Road over 12 years ago, our many parish ministries and services have expanded in hopes of one day moving under one roof: a parish ministry and administrative center to complement our worship space.

Our Future: The recently launched, $65-million diocesan-wide capital campaign, Living Our Mission, invites Catholics throughout the Diocese of Richmond to help position the Church for a strong future by supporting seminarian education, establishing a fund for the New Evangelization, contributing to the needs of our retired priests, and supporting other ministry priorities, including Catholic Campus Ministries.

Saint Bede Catholic Church’s participation in the Living Our Mission capital campaign presents a wonderful opportunity to make our own parish facilities project a reality. Housing our growing ministries in one location will enable us to witness to our community not merely for years, but for generations to come.

Reaching Our Goal: Our parish will receive the overwhelming majority of the funds it raises: 77% of funds raised up to the campaign goal of $7,500,000 and 90% of funds raised over the goal. The parish will use its share of the funds, nearly $5.8 million, towards the building of the new facilities and retiring current high interest debt. The remainder needed for constructing the new buildings will be borrowed at lower interest rates. These dreams of a hopeful and fruitful future can be realized in a short period of time through the participation of our entire parish family.

Saint Bede Challenge Goal: $7,500,000

- Our Parish Share: $5,765,000
- Developing Our Future Church: $572,550
- Supporting Our Clergy: $520,500
- Advancing Our Shared Mission: $641,950

Our Parish Goal: $7,500,000
Our Parish Share: $5,765,000
Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Our Parish Case and Living Our Mission Campaign

What is the total cost of the construction project for our parish?
The total cost of construction is estimated to be $7.5 million. We will receive final bids soon. $4.35 million of the funds raised in this campaign will be used towards the construction of the new facilities.

In comparison to other parishes, what share of funds raised will our parish receive?
We are receiving one of the largest parish shares of any parish in the diocese: 77% of the funds raised up to our $7.5-million goal and 90% of funds raised over goal. Our parish share will amount to $5.765 million of which $4.35 million will be used towards the construction project and $1.4 million will be used to pay down our present parish debt which is at a very high interest rate. Diocesan leadership, especially Bishop DiLorenzo, strongly and visibly supports the project.

Why are we conducting a combined campaign instead of our own campaign?
Based on our discussion with diocesan leaders, we judged that it was more prudent and efficient to run a single combined campaign than to run both a building campaign and participate in the diocesan campaign. It also allows us to save significant campaign costs: the diocese is paying for printing costs, pledge redemption costs, and travel costs for campaign counsel. We are also receiving a significantly discounted fee for the campaign counsel for our local campaign.

When will we be able to begin the project to build our new facilities?
Once we achieve our goal of $7.5 million in pledges, we must have $2.8 million in cash to begin construction. It is our hope that we will have this amount on hand during the upcoming calendar year. Once we begin construction it will take 13 to 14 months to build the facility. While we must consider weather, contractor availability and other factors, we anticipate beginning as soon as possible.

Will we be conducting the Annual Diocesan Appeal (A.D.A.) as well as Living Our Mission?
No, Saint Bede Catholic Church will not be conducting the Annual Diocesan Appeal in 2014. We will return to conducting the A.D.A. in the autumn of 2015.

How long is the pledge period and when will I receive my first pledge reminder?
Pledges can be made over a 5-year period, and parishioners may choose the beginning month and choose whether to receive monthly, quarterly, or annual reminders. For example, a parishioner could choose to begin receiving yearly reminders in December 2014 or January 2015.