

I have been a member of St Patrick's parish for 5 years and I am here to tell you why I support the United in Faith Campaign.

My first reason is the impact St Patrick parish has had on me personally and my catholic faith. This is the best parish I have ever belonged to. This is due to:

- Father Val. He greets me every week by name. This has not happened at any of the parishes I have belonged to. I can't remember anyone's name. Father Val calls me by name every week coming and going. This makes a difference. I also enjoy and look forward to his homilies each week. They challenge me, make me think and make me a better person and a better catholic.
- The diversity at St Patrick. By any measure this is the most diverse parish I have belonged to and the economic diversity is what makes our parish different and special.
- The outreach programs we provide. Father Val has mentioned several times that we border the poorest zip code in the city. We have outreach programs that make a difference. We cannot solve all the problems but we can and do make a difference with our outreach ministries.

Secondly, I like how the campaign is structured as an endowment campaign so that the money we give will be used for many years to meet the needs of both the diocese and St Patrick. Half of the money will go the diocese and half to St Patrick. The money for the diocese will be set aside in endowments and will be used to fund the priorities of the diocese discussed in the video and by Father Val.

Lastly, I fully support the priorities established by Father Val and the Parish Counsel for St. Patrick. The three areas are:

- Building fund. We have a great building, a historic building and an old building. We need to set aside funds to meet the buildings needs for many years in the future.
- Youth programs. The youth are the future of our parish and I fully support the expansion of existing programs and development of new programs.
- Financial support of our existing outreach ministries. As I said before our outreach programs make a difference. If we do not have the funds in the future and have to scale back some programs or God forbid cancel some programs our neighboring community will be impacted. This campaign will ensure this will not happen.

So, these are the reasons I support this campaign and I ask you to prayerfully consider supporting it also.

- Chris McLean