



**Building on a  
Saint's Foundation**  
A Campaign for St. Augustine Indian Mission



## Campaign Case Statement

“St. Katharine Drexel once said, ‘If we do what each moment requires, we will eventually complete God’s plan, whatever it is.’ We seek to follow the example we were given and fulfill to the best of our abilities the moment with which we are entrusted. The quality, faith-based education rooted in Winnebago and Omaha identity is a lasting gift that unites current and future generations of children with their ancestors that came before them.”

– *Deacon Don and Cathy Blackbird, General Chairs*



“To continue the work of St. Katharine Drexel, and to provide a safe, supportive learning environment for the children, it is important that a new school be built. I pray you can find it in your heart to honor our request for a meaningful gift to build a school that will contribute to the well-being of the children and the Mission community for years to come.”

– *Mary Ann Nipp, General Chair*



“We view the children and staff at St. Augustine Indian Mission as an extension of our family. As with any family member, we believe that we have a responsibility to help support their education both prayerfully and financially. We’re proud to serve as general chairs of this capital campaign and make a meaningful contribution to the future of the Mission school.”

– *Justin and Nicole Vossen, General Chairs*



Dear St. Augustine Indian Mission Community,

**Family. Tradition. Culture. Faith.**

Over and over again, I hear from the Mission community that you choose to support St. Augustine Indian Mission because of our Catholic identity and Native American culture. Our reputation of being a nationally recognized model of K-8 education to Native American children means we are forming the future leaders of the Winnebago and Omaha tribes. It is this sense of inspiring our students to excellence that makes me so excited about our future.

After receiving extensive input from Mission leaders, along with consultation from the Archdiocese of Omaha, architects and development professionals, we have concluded that we must replace our current school building. The structure is nearing the end of its useful life and was never designed to be an educational facility. Our new building will be specifically designed to meet the needs of our students.

In an effort to fund the new construction, I am excited to launch our *Building on a Saint's Foundation* Capital Campaign – an effort that captures the essence of this moment in our 110-year history as a Mission and School. It's our turn to build for the present, and to build a lasting legacy for future generations at St. Augustine Indian Mission.

In 1909, St. Katharine Drexel oversaw the building of our first school. We are relying on her heavenly prayers and God's grace to build a new school. She laid the foundation for our school, literally and figuratively. Now is the time to build on that foundation. Now is the time to help current and future students grow as beloved sons and daughters of God!

I ask you to prayerfully consider a gift to our campaign, according to your means. My prayer is that every Mission family and community organization will consider a meaningful pledge toward this effort. Together, we will continue to proclaim and celebrate the Good News of God's grace as a Mission community for many years to come.

Please remember to keep our campaign in your prayers. Thank you and may God continue to bless our Mission and all those we serve.

Sincerely,



Rev. Mark Beran  
Director, St. Augustine Indian Mission



## Starting with a Saint

St. Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament envisioned a devoted Winnebago and Omaha tribal community built upon faith, personal engagement and strong academics.

In March of 1909, then-Mother Katharine Drexel and her Sisters arrived at Winnebago for the first of three visits that year. They would finance and oversee the planning and construction of the Mission and School, while also visiting with every Native American family in the Winnebago community. By November of that same year, St. Augustine Indian Mission and School welcomed its first students.

Ever since, the Mission has worked to improve the lives of Native American children and their families. We hope to continue that legacy and build on the foundation St. Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament started more than a century ago.



## Mission Critical

St. Augustine Indian Mission is the only Catholic school out of 72 in the Archdiocese of Omaha created to serve the needs of Native American students. The Mission exemplifies excellence in K-8 Catholic education, providing critical academic and spiritual support to children who grow up in a challenging environment. There are limited job or employment opportunities in Macy and Walthill, and with no access to public transportation, unemployment in the area is widespread.

### Unemployment rates:

**78%**  
**Omaha Reservation**

**25.1%**  
**Winnebago Reservation**

**3.6%**  
**National average**

**2.8%**  
**Nebraska average**

St. Augustine Indian Mission seeks to set a foundation that can alter the course of each student's life. The school tailors educational programming to meet the unique needs of Native American students.

**95%**  
**of Mission students  
are enrolled in a  
Native American tribe**



**94%**  
**of Mission graduates have  
gone on to complete high  
school over the past 19 years**

**Students are taught both Winnebago and Omaha  
languages along with their cultural heritage**

## The Need

The current school building was built in 1967 and renovated in 1997. There have been limited renovations to the facility since that time. The school was originally built as an auditorium, gym and warehouse space for the community. It was never intended to be a school, a place for learning. That fact, complicated by the facility's age and the overall deterioration of the building, have created a range of problems:

- » Cracks that run from floor to ceiling in the outside walls may be structurally sound for only 5-7 more years.
- » Noisy heating and cooling systems that hamper students' ability to hear teachers.
- » Limited classroom space requires the use of modular temporary classrooms.
- » Thick exterior walls block internet Wi-Fi in some areas.
- » Limited original electrical system hinders the full use of computers and other devices.
- » Pillars in classrooms block students' views of the chalkboard and teacher.
- » Some classrooms lack windows.
- » Humidity and poor air circulation create mold and other problems.
- » Lack of a cafeteria requires students to walk outside from the school to the church to eat lunch in the church hall.
- » Multiple entries into the building create security concerns.



A comprehensive evaluation conducted by architects and development professionals delivered troubling news for St. Augustine Indian Mission and School – the building suffers from major structural problems. The evaluation revealed that the school is safe for the short term – five to seven years. Use beyond that would require significant structural repairs costing an estimated \$7 million – work that won't address many other deficiencies with the aging building.

After long-range planning and consulting with engineers, **Mission leaders believe the most cost-effective and beneficial long-term option is to construct a new school building, one that will enable the Mission to continue our important and historic ministry well into the future.**

We take a decisive step toward making that vision a reality with the *Building on a Saint's Foundation* Capital Campaign.





## The Plan

With the assistance of Mission leadership, Advisory Board, building committee, and the Archdiocese of Omaha, a construction plan is in place that will best serve the current and long-term needs of our students.

The new school will be situated directly south of the present site. The current Mission office and school building will be torn down to make way for the new school, which is currently designed as a two-story, 33,450-square-foot structure with three secured entrances.



(Gymnasium in new school)



(Classroom in new school)

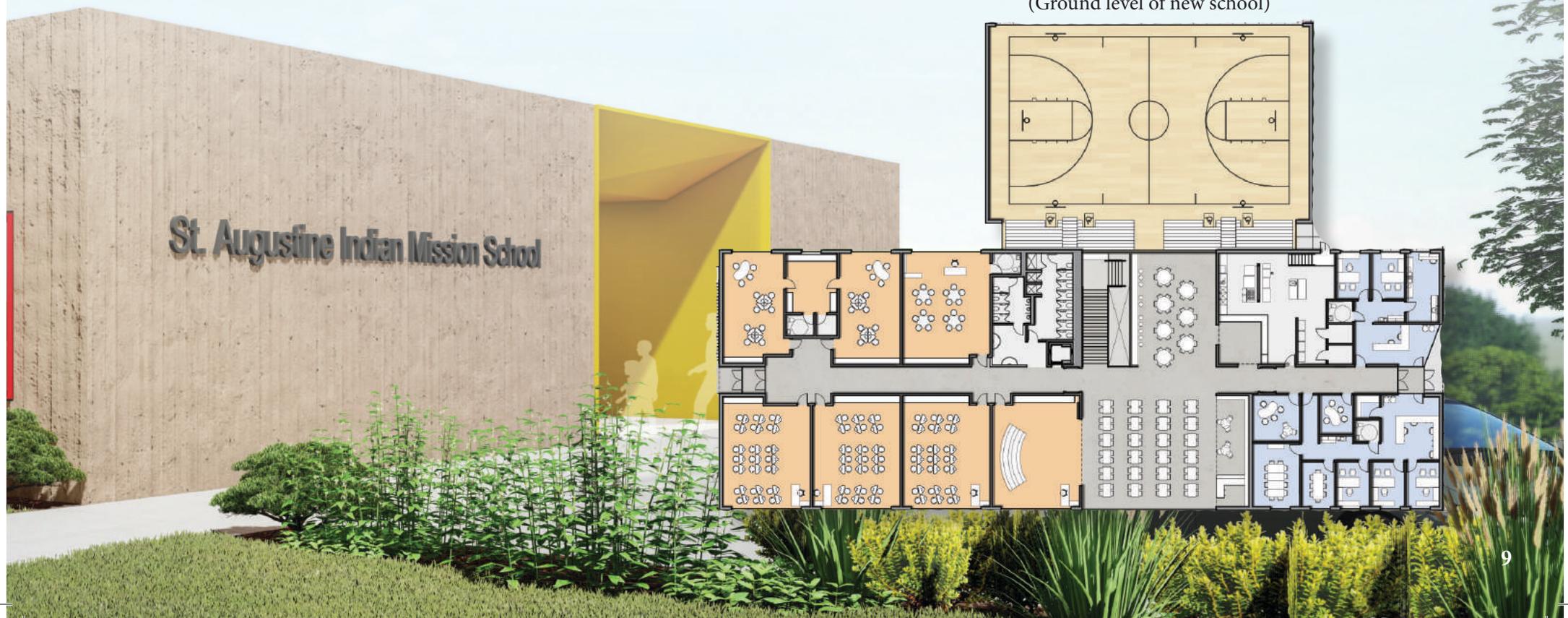


8 (South side of new school)

The new school building will include:

- » Nine classrooms for grades K-8
- » Art classroom
- » Music classroom
- » Cultural classroom
- » Gymnasium/Multipurpose space
- » Cafeteria
- » Kitchen
- » Commons area
- » Title and special education classrooms
- » Media center
- » Mechanical/Electrical/IT room
- » Restrooms
- » Offices and meeting space for the Mission administration
- » Ample storage space, including space for the Mission's historical items and records

**Construction of a New School Building**  
Estimated Construction Cost: \$13 million  
(includes razing existing school)



## Building on a Saint's Foundation

The *Building on a Saint's Foundation* Capital Campaign seeks to secure funds to underwrite the cost of construction and allow the Mission to:

- » Create a safe, state-of-the-art learning environment.
- » Allow space for projected enrollment increases.
- » Eliminate the need for portable classrooms.
- » Provide space for a cafeteria and kitchen that the current school does not have.
- » Offer a flexible commons area for school performances, plus community and Mission events.
- » Create secured main entry points.
- » Improve security by reducing the need for students walking outside to portable classrooms and cafeteria.
- » Make our area a more desirable place for families to live and work.



As you prayerfully consider supporting our *Building on a Saint's Foundation* Capital Campaign, we hope you will reflect on what St. Augustine Indian Mission means not only to you but to our Native American children and growing community. In order to conduct a successful capital campaign and achieve these goals, we will rely heavily upon the generosity of Mission and tribal leaders, foundations, businesses and other Mission community supporters.

**We are hopeful you will consider a meaningful commitment to the *Building on a Saint's Foundation* capital campaign.**

**The campaign pledge period is three years, but the gift can be structured in a way that is most convenient for you.**

Your investment in the St. Augustine Indian Mission and School will leave a lasting legacy for our children and faith community.

## Naming Opportunities

- » Gymnasium = \$2 million
- » Cafeteria = \$2 million
- » Main Entry/Commons Area = \$1 million
- » Library = \$1 million
- » Classrooms (14) = \$500,000 each
- » Parking Lot = \$250,000
- » Offices (10) = \$100,000 each
- » Sound System = \$75,000
- » Fixtures = \$50,000
- » Landscaping = \$25,000



## How to Give

There are many ways to contribute and support the capital campaign. Pledges are commitments made in good faith, but are not legally binding. Pledges are encouraged to be made over a three-year period to offer flexibility in how you may fulfill your pledge. A commitment may be fulfilled through monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments.

### Cash or Check

Gifts made by cash or check are the most common. Checks should be made payable to St. Augustine Indian Mission.

### Automatic Withdrawal/Credit Card

Your payments can be made automatically from your checking/savings account or placed on a credit card. If you would like to give in this manner, the Mission office will contact you to make the necessary arrangements.

### Securities, IRA'S or Retirement Plans

Charitable gifts of stocks, bonds or mutual funds that have appreciated offer special tax advantages and can be a great way to provide a significant gift to St. Augustine Indian Mission.

### Real Estate

Gifts of property entitle a donor to an income tax deduction equal to the full market value with no tax on any capital gains.

### Life Insurance

You can donate an old policy by simply naming St. Augustine Indian Mission as the owner and beneficiary. Or you can consider donating a new policy.

### Planned Gift

Planned giving is the process of carefully selecting the best method and assets for making a charitable gift. Such a gift can enable you to take full advantage of the tax laws to accomplish your financial and charitable goals. A bequest contained in your will is the most common form of planned giving.

### Corporate Matching Gifts

A matching gift program provided through your employer or board membership may allow you to increase the value of your gift. Many companies match charitable gifts of employees, retirees or board members. Please check with your supervisor or Human Resources Director.

*Note: This information is not intended as legal advice. You are advised to consult your own qualified professional adviser for specific recommendations.*



## Campaign Leadership

### Director

Rev. Mark Beran

### General Chairs

Deacon Don & Cathy Blackbird

Mary Ann Nipp

Justin & Nicole Vossen

### Honorary Chairs

Most Rev. George J. Lucas,  
Archbishop of Omaha

Most. Rev. Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.,  
Archbishop of Philadelphia

Rev. Maurice Henry Sands,  
Executive Director of the Black & Indian Mission Office  
of Washington, D.C.

Sr. Rosann Ocken,  
Prioress of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters  
of Norfolk, NE

Lance Morgan,  
President & CEO of Ho-Chunk, Inc.  
of Winnebago, NE

### Development Directors

Rebecca Meyer

Peggy Tabor

### Development Counsel

The Steier Group

## Campaign Prayer

Lord God, as the St. Augustine Indian Mission strives to build a new school,  
we call upon the intercession of St. Katharine Drexel, our foundress.  
Relying on your grace, she opened and supported almost 60 schools and missions,  
including ours. Through her prayers and trusting in Your guidance,  
we ask for another school to be built for the spiritual, intellectual,  
and physical growth of the children of the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen. All my relations.



ST. AUGUSTINE  
INDIAN MISSION

St. Augustine Indian Mission  
1 Mission Road South  
P.O. Box 766  
Winnebago, NE 68071-0766  
402-878-2402  
[staugustinemission.org](http://staugustinemission.org)