

# Honoring Mary's Legacy

## Frequently Asked Questions



**A. Why is the church raising monies by way of the Honoring Mary's Legacy program and not simply another campaign?**

It is understood that our parish is essentially "campaigned out" Or, as noted in the Grand Opening presentation, the parish has been "campaigned to death!" in recent years.

Sponsorship and donation programs, such as HML have been very successful in other parishes and it is felt that this type of program can also work well at St. Mary.

**B. What is the goal of the HML program and how long will it last?**

The goal is to reduce the debt of the parish owed to the Archdiocese which has funded the building project such that it could be completed. The debt was initially projected at about \$400K, but HML sponsorships and donations have already reduced that number by more than 10%! The HML program has no defined ending, but at this point we are projecting about a year's duration.

**C. If I sponsor a paver, how many lines of verbiage can I have?**

The engraving vendor advises that there can be 18-20 spaces per line, (letters, characters, numbers, spaces) and up to 3 lines of verbiage.

**D. What is the size of the sponsored bricks?**

8" x 8"

**E. What is included in a Prayer Garden sponsorship?**

Included with the two Prayer Gardens are two, (2) park style wood and iron benches per garden, a flagstone path, all the plantings within and at the perimeter of each garden and the Prayer Garden carved marble statue and its raised stone base.

The garden closest to the Parish Life Center will have Jesus the Good Shepherd statue while the opposite garden will feature St. Michael the Archangel slaying the devil.

**F. Will the stone prayer seats, one in each garden in front of each statue, be included with the garden sponsorship?**

No the stone prayer seats are available as separate sponsorship items. As of this writing, the prayer seat for the St. Michael statue is already sponsored, while the prayer seats for the Good Shepherd and Holy Family (Primary) remain available.

**G. Will each garden have its own iron entrance arch?**

Yes, each garden will have a separate garden arch at its entrance, suitable for vine climbing, a reminder that Jesus is the Vine. These two arches are also available for separate sponsorship.

**H. What is included with a Classroom sponsorship? Are there some still available?**

Of the 6 original classrooms, as of this writing there are 3 still available.

Each classroom sponsorship includes a custom 14" wide by 9-5/16" high solid, cast bronze recognition plaque with the wording of the sponsor's choice on the plaque. The sponsor also may select a statuette of a saint that they'd like to have mounted on a pedestal within the classroom.

**I. What type of recognition will one receive for sponsorship of other HML items?**

Each item that is sponsored will have a 6" wide by 2" high custom bronze plaque permanently mounted to the item. The sponsor can select the verbiage displayed on the plaque.

**J. What is the “Primary Statue” indicated at the Prayer Terrace area?**

The primary statue is a full-size, cast-bronze, freestanding statue of St. Joseph alongside pregnant St. Mary, (the Holy Family). The statue base is already in-place and is elevated about a foot above the Terrace level.

As noted, the Holy Family statue will have a 3<sup>rd</sup> prayer seat in front of it that is available for sponsorship.

**K. What can I expect for a tax credit on my personal federal taxes?**

By definition, both sponsorships and donations are considered “cash contributions” and can be utilized to reduce tax exposure. There is no limit as to how much can be donated or sponsored.

As with all church donations, the church will present the donor or sponsor with a Contemporaneous Written Acknowledgment at the time of donation/sponsorship, or by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January following the calendar year in which the donation/sponsorship was made.

As with all tax matters, we recommend seeking tax counsel from your personal tax advisor for specifics about your own tax return.

**L. How is the church able to pay down the construction debt by way of the HML program?**

The church is asking for sponsorship values that exceed the actual cost of each sponsored item.

The sponsored value less the cost of any item results in a net gain to the parish. These “net gains” will be utilized to reduce our debt. All donations will be applied 100% to paying off the debt, unless the donor instructs to the contrary.

**M. Will the church’s mortgage obligation be increased as a result of any of the HML program?**

No, the church will not increase the mortgage amount as a result of any construction and/or acquisition of items related to the HML program.

**N. How do I know my donation/sponsorship is going toward debt reduction and not other church expenses?**

The church will be accounting for all received HML funds separately from any other donations or contributions.

All donors will receive the aforementioned Written Acknowledgement, as noted, but each donor will also receive a custom engraved leaf on the Donor Tree which will be permanently mounted on a wall in the Parish Life Center. These HML donor “leaves” will be separate and distinct from leaves that recognize donors and contributors to the Building Capital Campaign and/or Building Fund. Note, there is no minimum donation required to obtain a recognition leaf, but there shall be a limit of just one leaf per donating party. Note that “Sponsors” will be recognized with permanent plaques as indicated, and not with donor tree leaves.

**O. How long will my recognition plaque or donor leaf be in-place?**

As long as St. Mary parish stands, it is the intent for these recognition plaques and leaves to be “forever and permanent”.

**P. How can I tell which sponsorship items are still available?**

The church will maintain a public posting in the narthex of the church that will indicate the level of total HML funds raised as well as a list of yet-to-be sponsored items. This posting will be kept in real-time and will be updated as changes occur.

**Q. How do I find out the Sponsorship value of a particular item?**

Those values will be posted in the Narthex of the church. Further questions?

Call the office at 706-886-2819 and a Committee member will get back to you or, contact any of the folks below by e mail:

Contact Father Henry.....TPham@archatl.com

Contact Joe Creighton.....joecreighton@secoinc.biz

Contact Quyen Ha.....quyentha1969@yahoo.com

Contact Jack Marcinick....jackson541@yahoo.com

**R. Can we place HML donations in the collection basket during Mass?**

Yes, but please be sure to use the HML printed envelope so that we can give the donor proper credit as referred to above. Cash with no identified donor is impossible to track! If writing a check for a donation, be sure to write "For HML" on the check, again, for proper credit and recordkeeping.

**S. Can Sponsorships be pooled among families, friends, groups or associations?**

Most definitely. In fact, the HML Committee encourages pooling resourcing for sponsorship opportunities.

**T. Will HML Sponsorships and Donations be solicited outside of the parish?**

Absolutely. The Office of Mission Advancement within the Archdiocese main office in Smyrna has graciously offered to help us seek out possible donors and sponsors by way of their [www.Lifeofthechurch.com](http://www.Lifeofthechurch.com) website which includes a link, (under Initiatives-Projects) to the HML program!

This extends the message of St. Mary parish needs far beyond Toccoa!

**U. What are the payment terms of Sponsorship?**

For sponsorship, the payment structure is thus:

50% of the sponsorship value is expected upfront as a down payment.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> 50% will be due within 30 days of the item's subsequent installation.

Note that the Sponsor's recognition plaque will be ordered at the time of the receipt of the down payment.

