"We are Many. We are One."

Romans 12:4-5

2017-2019 Capital Campaign
Dear Gehlen Catholic Family & Friends,

Beginning in 1870, Peter & Catherine Gehlen worked hard & diligently to help establish a Catholic Church & school in Le Mars. In April of 1870, the first mass was celebrated in their home. In those first years, the Gehlen family donated land which forms the basis for a Catholic “campus,” & they were key participants in the efforts to have a priest permanently assigned to the community. I recently discovered the following testimony in the annals of the parish history:

In the early spring of 1879, only 9 years after he set foot in Le Mars, Peter Gehlen (right) was called from this world. Although he did not live to see many of the fruits of his initiative & courage, the people were not to forget our great debt to Gehlen for his achievements & exemplary image as a generous & devout parishioner. On his funeral day, over 1,000 mourners formed a procession that stretched out over half a mile. Church bells tolled not only at St. Joseph’s, but at the Methodist & Congregational churches as well…

Now that is a testimony! It is a similar spirit that has inspired generations of Catholic believers to follow in the Gehlen’s footsteps. The legacy continues to live on through Gehlen Catholic School & the faith communities that support it.

We now have the opportunity to strengthen that legacy for future generations through a new capital campaign for Gehlen Catholic School called “We Are Many. We are One.” “We are many” recognizes & celebrates those generations of believers who have carried out the Gehlen’s dreams & visions. “We are one” recognizes & celebrates it is our Catholic faith that unites us & binds us all together.

This campaign is vital to our continued growth & ministry. In particular, this campaign addresses the following needs:

• $590,000 will be used to retire the loan that the school has for the 1998 addition to the school building.
• $410,000 will be used for much needed capital improvements. (School kitchen & elementary bathroom renovations are 2 examples of projects currently high on our priority list.)
• $1,000,000 will be invested in the Endowment Fund to strengthen our long-term fiscal strength.

Each one of us is important to the success of this campaign! Participation demonstrates the same “initiative & courage” evidenced by the Gehlens. I am asking you to prayerfully consider your own participation in this campaign. This is an opportunity to further secure Catholic education in Le Mars for future generations.

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry of our school. I am counting on your continued help & generosity. Be assured of my prayers for you.

In Christ,

Rev. Kevin M. Richter
President, January 20, 2017
Dear Gehlen Catholic Family & Friends,

A small bit about me as your new President: I attended Catholic schools all my life, starting with St. Matthew’s grade school in the little town of Clare and St. Edmond High School in Fort Dodge. Of course, at the time, I didn’t appreciate my Catholic faith nor the benefit of the instruction and formation that a Catholic school offered; I attended simply because that was where my parents sent me.

Nor did I appreciate those who made a parochial, faith-based education possible: the priests, the religious sisters, the lay teachers who taught me; and even farther from my radar were the parishes and the many, many individuals in them who, through their commitment to Catholic education, made those schools possible.

In this secular age, we need Catholic schools as much, if not more than ever. We in Le Mars are blessed to have a vibrant and financially sound Catholic educational system. Our task is to strengthen and build on what so many other before us have handed on to us.

We have an opportunity at this time to build for the future through the “We are Many. We are One” Gehlen Catholic School capital campaign for the school’s loan retirement, campus improvements and increase the Endowment Fund. I am happy to support this effort. Trust with your generosity, we will continue the mission of forming our young people in the faith we treasure like Peter & Catherine Gehlen.

Let us be ever grateful for the gift of faith we have received, and do all we can to pass it on to the next generation.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Bruce A. Lawler
President, July 26, 2017

Many families, over the generations, have exemplified the dreams and visions of Peter & Catherine Gehlen.

YOU are important to the success of this campaign through your gifts of time, talents, & treasures!
3 Reasons for Your Support

1 GROWTH

10 out of the past 12 years, Gehlen Catholic School’s enrollment has grown!

Why?

- **Diocese of Sioux City Catholic Schools Scholarships:**
  - Msgr. Lafferty Tuition Assistance Program,
  - Bishop’s Education Fund (through the Diocesan Annual Appeal), &
  - Catherine Birzle Education Fund;
- **Addition** of the:
  - 4-year old Preschool Plus (with three educational opportunities),
  - 5-year old Transitional Kindergarten,
  - Success Center & limited Special Education opportunities,
  - English as a Second Language,
  - PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports – elementary),
  - Banking Program, &
  - Youth Eucharistic Adorers (YEA!);
- **Technology** improvements/enhancements;
- **Building & grounds** improvements/enhancements (funded entirely by private contributions):
  - Linda Freking-Bouma Wellness Center,
  - New roofs,
  - Back gym & floor,
  - High school bathrooms, &
  - New high school lockers, &
  - New elementary playground (coming in June 2017);
- **Unification** with Spalding Catholic High School;
- **Expanded high school offerings** including:
  - Dual-college credit courses,
  - Ag. Science,&
  - Business courses.
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

• Personalized attention:
  • Multi-Tiered Support Systems, &
  • Differentiated instruction;

• Student academic success:
  • 4 out of the past 5 years, Gehlen Catholic students exceeded the State composite ACT average scores (22.1),
  • Iowa Assessments – On average, 7 out of 9 grades (3-11) class composite 90%-ile+ compared to their counterparts nationally, &
  • Nearly 100% of graduates since 2001 have pursued post-secondary education or military;

• Expanded & renowned leadership opportunities:
  • 90%+ of 7-12th grade students are involved in 1+ activities,
  • Athletics, fine arts, co-curricular & extra-curricular successes at the local, state, & national level.

Did You Know?

• 2004-2005: 1st Class 1A School in Iowa to have all 4 fall sports teams compete for a state title in the same year.
• 2012-2013: Marching Band - 1st Place in Class 1A, Holiday Bowl.
• 2015-2016: Megan Kellen - Legion Auxiliary Girls’ State – State Citizen of the Year. 7-peat at State volleyball! Elementary - PBIS Banner Plus Honor School (7 years in a row & the only school in Northwest Area Education Agency area to receive Banner Plus recognition).
LEADERSHIP THROUGH CHRIST

• Students live a “meaningful life” through:
  • Year-round program including prayers at the beginning of every class period, weekly liturgies, 1st Friday Adoration, seasonal penance services, retreats, days of recollection,
  • YEA!, Students 4 Life,
• Students live their “calling” through:
  • Christian Leadership Team, Gehlen Catholic Honor Society, Reading Buddies,
  • Student initiated Jean’s Days for families with medical emergencies,
  • Christian Needs Center food collection,
  • Mission Honduras & Then Feed Just One,
  • Advent gift bags to shut-ins,
  • Veteran’s Day Prayer Service & Honor Wall;
• 9 Gehlen Catholic faculty, staff, &/or administrators recipients of the Bishop’s Excellence in Education &/or Good Shepherd Award.

Did You Know?
50%+ of All Saints’ parish leaders are connected with Gehlen Catholic School.
1. Debt Retirement
In February 2002, Gehlen Catholic School kicked off a $2-million capital campaign, in conjunction with the Diocese of Sioux City to pay down the debt of the new addition & for faculty bonuses.

In 2007 & 2012, Gehlen Catholic quietly asked benefactors to renew their pledges for capital improvements & bonuses due to the new St. Joseph Church building.

Pledges were separately secured, for debt retirement. Thanks to our benefactors, the debt is now down to $590,000. The remaining includes unfulfilled pledges by the unexpected losses of & financial difficulties of several benefactors.

2. Building & Grounds Projects:
In particular, the following needs to be addressed include:

- Remodel elementary bathrooms serving an estimated 2,104 students since 1962.
- Remodel & expand kitchen which in 1953 “opened” as part of the high school.

The cafeteria staff serves, on average (while addressing the needs of student &/or adult diabetes, gluten-free, nut, wheat, milk, & other allergies):

- Breakfast to 30 students,
- 113 snacks &/or milk to our youngest learners (mid-morning & mid-afternoon),
- Over 500 lunches for students, faculty, staff, & visiting parents.

Through the adherence to strict nutrition guidelines & preparation of healthy foods, Gehlen Catholic offers low-fat or fat-free milk, fruits, vegetables, whole grains, & lean proteins.

Students, faculty, staff, & visitors alike proclaim Gehlen Catholic’s hot lunch program tastes great!

3. Endowment Fund:
Established in 1987, the endowment fund is a fund whose principal is not spent. The income from investments is “harvested” & used to support the school. As the fund grows, it lessens the burden on parishes & parents providing students a quality Catholic education.

The fund is a legal, tax-exempt entity managed by a separate Board. A professional money manager follows a moderate risk investment approach.
Since 1987, the Endowment Fund:
• Is valued at over $3-million &
• Provided Gehlen Catholic over $1.7-million in support.

3 out of 5 Gehlen Catholic students are classified as “low income”. Diocese of Sioux City Catholic Schools Scholarships & local scholarships are unable to fulfill all of the tuition assistance needs. Your gift to the endowment fund will assist Gehlen Catholic in meeting the school’s current & future needs.

Endowment Fund Chair, Steve Schuster (‘77), said, “Donations to the Gehlen Catholic School Endowment Fund are perpetual gifts. Your donation leaves a lasting legacy of faith & generosity to Catholic education.”

$2-Million Stewardship Plan

1. Debt Retirement: $590,000
2. Building & Grounds Projects: $410,000+
3. Endowment Fund: $1,000,000

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“Plant a Seed Today! It Will Grow Forever!”

Excellence in Education, Leadership through Christ

In partnership with Spalding Catholic School
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