



Growing in Faith

Commonly Asked Campaign Questions

*Each of you should give what you have decided
in your heart to give... for God loves a cheerful giver.
- 2 Corinthians 9:7*

1. Why is Growing in Faith important?

Funds raised as part of *Growing in Faith* will support our move to our new home at St Nicolas de Flue, so we have the facilities we need to thrive and grow. Our priorities include funding for:

- Renovations to the Parish Centre;
- Upgrades to the Church; and
- Day-to-day operations in a larger space, including servicing and repaying our loans for the project.

Ultimately, these resources are a means to a greater ambition – to strengthen our parish community and strengthen our ability to celebrate, teach and live our faith in our new home at St Nicolas de Flue.

2. What is our fundraising goal?

The total project will cost CHF 5 million. After much consultation and prayer, we established a minimum goal to raise CHF 3.5 million in voluntary gifts and pledges, with CHF 1.5 coming from loans supported by the Diocese of Geneva. The more we exceed our fundraising goal, the less we will need to borrow!

3. Who will be asked to support this campaign?

Every individual or household within our parish will be asked to prayerfully consider a voluntary gift to *Growing in Faith*.

4. How long will the campaign last?

Active campaigning for voluntary gifts and pledges will conclude at the end of December 2010, with all parishioners being asked to consider 3-5 year commitments.

5. Why emphasize a personal approach?

Fr Richard and Fr Tony want everyone to know, in as personal a way as possible, the aims of the campaign and have an opportunity to ask questions. Volunteers are leading this effort by making personal visits and calls to answer people's questions. To-date, 8 of 10 people who have been contacted have made a gift or pledge.

6. Will I be asked to consider a specific amount?

All *Growing in Faith* materials include illustrative giving tables to show how even a small daily contribution can build up to a substantial sum when added up over 3-5 years. Families are making private decisions and communicating those decisions confidentially to the Parish Office.

7. Do I have to make a multi-year pledge?

Multi-year pledges allow the Parish to plan more effectively for the future. Pledging also allows individuals and families the opportunity to consider larger commitments than they could usually make in a one-time donation. While some families are making one-time contributions, 9 of 10 families who have decided to give are making pledges over 3 to 5 years.

8. Can I just give more in the weekly offertory?

Yes! *Growing in Faith* is a comprehensive campaign to fund our renovations as well as day-to-day operations in our larger home. We strive to make giving to our Parish as easy as possible and, in this special campaign year, parishioners can make just one gift to our Parish to support our future. The pledge card allows you to allocate your gift to both the renovations and daily operating costs. The new direct debit option is also an effective way to establish ongoing payments and save on Parish paperwork.

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9. Will my gift remain confidential?

Yes. The only people to know your pledge details are the parish priests and the *Growing in Faith* administrative team, who have assured total confidentiality.

10. What if I choose not to give?

Giving to the campaign is entirely voluntary and private. Eight out of 10 families being asked for a gift have made a contribution, but this may not be possible for everyone. The campaign seeks thoughtful, prayerful decisions. If you are not able to make a financial pledge, your contribution of time and talent to assist our ministry work is equally needed and valued!

11. How are we managing the campaign?

Growing in Faith is led by a group of parish volunteers working closely with Fr Richard, Fr Tony, the Parish Administrative Council (PAC) and the Building Task Force (BTF). Managing a campaign of this scale also requires professional support, as we don't have the staff, expertise or volunteers capable of taking on this workload. CCS Fundraising is supporting the work of our volunteers, providing a full-time professional campaign director working on-site at the Parish to manage all of the campaign activity, materials, meetings and volunteer training.

12. How do professional fundraisers help us?

The last time our Parish raised CHF 1.5 million in 1996/97, we recognized the task was too great to be done purely on a volunteer basis and called on a professional fundraising firm to help us reach and exceed our goal. Our CHF 5 million project to move to St Nicolas de Flue poses an even larger financial challenge, so it was recognized that a professional firm was all the more necessary to help us meet our fundraising goal in the needed time period. The benefit of this approach can already be seen; in a matter of months the campaign helped secure voluntary support totaling over 80% of the fundraising goal of CHF 3.5 million.

13. Is my gift tax deductible?

Yes. Pope John XXIII Parish is a registered charitable organization in Switzerland, allowing you to deduct your gift from your taxes to the extent allowable by law. Tax deductions vary by your Canton of residence and Swiss permit category, so we encourage you to consult your tax advisor regarding your individual situation. We do know there are several possibilities for making a tax-efficient gift! For example:

- Taxpayers in the canton of Geneva may deduct up to 20% of their gifts from Cantonal and Federal taxes.
- US taxpayers may make a tax-deductible gift in US Dollars by making a "Donor Advised Gift" through Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) directed to Pope John XXIII Parish. CAF's mission is to make it safe, easy and effective for US donors to engage in international philanthropy. Their solutions allow US donors to make tax-deductible gifts to non-US charities with the confidence their gift will arrive safely and be in line with US charitable laws. Please indicate on the pledge card if your gift is in USD and the Parish Office will send you full payment details.

14. What if my financial situation changes and I am not able to fulfill my pledge?

Pledges reflect an intention; they are not legally or morally binding. *Growing in Faith* recognizes that circumstances change. Some people will want to increase, decrease or suspend their payments in the future depending on their financial situation. The Parish will work with all donors on an individual basis.