



## St. Matthew's Cathedral eNews

### Christ + Compassion + Community

*From the Dean*

## No Success without Sacrifice

*But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD; for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God."*

—Joshua 24:19

In the Church, we don't talk a whole lot about success. It's like the whole concept is *verboden*. Success is not a Christian virtue. (Neither is failure, I might add.) We talk about faithfulness, humility, love, and so on: but not a whole lot about success.

I must be honest: I want St. Matthew's Cathedral to succeed. I want to succeed as Dean of this Cathedral. I want to be known as the Dean that put St. Matthew's on the course of great things and great influence—because I know that if I succeed, we succeed. If we succeed, St. Matthew's succeeds, and our neighborhood succeeds, and our community succeeds.

As we read the passage from Joshua, we realize, of course, that Joshua wanted the Israelites to succeed in their conquest of the Promised Land. It is interesting that in Joshua's calling them to accept the challenge, his first response was: "I don't think you can succeed." I suspect he was saying, "I don't think you want it badly enough." He had spent forty years listening to them pine for the "fleshpots of Egypt." He was pushing them to make sure they really wanted to succeed.

A mentor of mine once told me that there is no success without sacrifice. There are other ways of saying this: *No guts, no glory. No pain, no gain.* You get the picture. One of my concerns with our Capital Campaign is that I am not sure we want to succeed. I know that many of us want to succeed. I fear that some of us may want others to succeed while the rest of us reap the benefits of their success . . . and sacrifice.

Ask yourself, "How does my pledge to the Capital Campaign reflect my real commitment to the success of St. Matthew's Cathedral and this Capital Campaign?"