

The bishop writes: We work together to reach out

One of the things which brings me the greatest pride in our synod is the way we together support the institutions of our church and work together to see that the gospel is proclaimed in new places. But there comes a time when what we have been doing is not good enough. That time is now.

For the next three years we will be undertaking a synodwide campaign to



H. Gerard Knoche

- Build a new dining hall and indoor recreation space at Mar-Lu-Ridge;
- Increase the endowment for scholarships at our seminary at Gettysburg; and
- Provide additions to our Synod Mission Fund that will allow us to carry our share of the support for one new mission start each year.

The projects fit well together. The camp is one of the greatest sources for folks making decisions to enter the rostered ministry of the church. The seminary trains those who are so called. We then put them to work in churches we have developed as missions.

Each of the institutions had proposed to have a one-year campaign. Those who began to plan thought it much better to fold the three together for one campaign of three years' duration. Each of the institutions seeks to raise about \$2,000,000. So the goal will be for \$6,000,000 plus the cost of the campaign.

Kirby-Smith Associates, a professional fundraising counsel, has been employed to help us with our effort. Fortunately, they have been in touch with Bishop Emeritus Ted Schneider of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, to be

their lead person on our territory. Bishop Schneider has just retired from the boards of both the camp and the seminary and has been involved with us in joint mission planning because we share the same mission director. He knows the case and the church well.

We will be looking for three-year pledges from congregations and individuals for this effort. At this time of the year when we celebrate the gifts given by the Magi to the newborn King, I hope we will begin to ponder how much this Child has done for us and plan to give back to him in proportion to what we have received.

Peace and joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerard".

H. Gerard Knoche, bishop