



WHAT IS THE UST PARISH PARTNERS INITIATIVE?

The University of St. Thomas is the only Catholic institution of higher education in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Bishop Christopher Edward Byrne and the Congregation of St. Basil (otherwise known as the Basilian Fathers: founders of St. Thomas High School and St. Anne Parish in River Oaks) signed an agreement on April 29, 1944 authorizing the establishment of the University after World War II. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo has endorsed this program for the Archdiocese.

This purpose of this initiative is two-fold: to build awareness of the University among the Catholic community, and to increase engagement with the University among parish and individuals throughout the Archdiocese. The intent is to engender goodwill with parishioners and pastors, many of whom are alumni of the University.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING?

The University of St. Thomas offers the Partner parishes priority access to content resources, courses, events, facilities and lectures that encompass the areas of academics, arts, and athletics. Pastors are invited to concelebrate in annual Masses during the school year and to private luncheons with the University President. Additional benefits also are available throughout the year.

Each Partner will have a volunteer Parish Ambassador who serves as the point of contact between the University and the parish for the purposes of increasing parish and University engagement. Parishes also receive a customized banner promoting its partnership with the University.

The Office of the President at the University of St. Thomas provides needed support for this initiative.

WHY SHOULD MY PARISH BECOME PARISH PARTNER?

Your parish's participation indicates your personal support of Catholic education and demonstrates to your parishioners the importance of strengthening the Archdiocese's only Catholic University. The University provides an abundance of resources to integrate the relationship between education and faith that is needed for the Church and the community.

WHAT IS THE COST TO PARTICIPATE?

No membership costs are associated with this initiative.