



*This abridged article originally appeared in the Catholic Star Herald on May 17, 2018.*

## **Catholic Strong's benefits: Improved youth and nursing ministry, and long overdue church repairs**

Youth Ministry. Nursing Ministry. Improvements to church interiors.

These are just some of the ways South Jersey's Catholic parishes plan to use the funds generated by the Catholic Strong campaign, a diocesan-wide \$50 million effort to strengthen church communities, schools, and diocesan ministry services.

"If we want our parish to be strong, then repairs need to be done," notes Father Joseph Pham, pastor of Infant Jesus, Woodbury Heights.

Each parish will receive 70 percent of the funds raised toward its individual goal, with the other 30 percent heading to the diocese.

The needed improvements at Infant Jesus Parish include the replacement of sidewalks and curbs, and interior renovations such as carpeting and better church lighting at its two churches, Saint John Vianney and Saint Margaret; and expanded services for youth ministry and nursing ministry.

"Our opportunity now as a parish, is to make sacrifices for the next generation, as our parents and grandparents did," said John DeMareo, one of the committee members working hard to strengthen the Infant Jesus community.

To learn more about the Catholic Strong campaign, go to [SouthJerseyCatholicStrong.org](http://SouthJerseyCatholicStrong.org) or speak with you pastor or Catholic Strong volunteer team.