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Presentation to 113th Annual Council of the Diocese of West Texas (2016)

As always, I'm honored to be invited to speak to you about TMI. Each year, I come before you proud to recount the accomplishments of our many talented students and faculty. This year, as the bishop referred to earlier, I'll be reporting to you not only on our recent successes but on some vital first steps toward an even brighter future for the flagship school of our diocese

We have at present an all-time high enrollment of 475 students, and as always, they and their teachers have been busy developing their skills in every area. As many of you know, a TMI education is based on what we call the Four Pillars: Academics, Athletics, Military and Spirituality. Even in the few short weeks since Christmas break, we have had much to celebrate. Three seniors were named National Merit Scholarship **finalists**...Our varsity swimmers won **gold and silver medals** at the state championship meet...Our Corps of Cadets earned the Honor Unit with Distinction designation for the **23<sup>rd</sup> year in a row**...and our community-service group **won a citywide award** for Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy.

I could take all of my time here enumerating all the great things our students do, but I have something even more important to tell you about today.

Our Board of Governors and our bishops have challenged themselves and our entire school community to come up with a plan for the future that will even more effectively fulfill our mission of developing servant leaders. Upon prayerful consideration and study, our Board of Governors has launched the quiet phase of a capital campaign. Our two most recent capital campaigns have focused on Spirituality – with the completion of our inspiring All Saints Chapel in 2008 – and improvements to our Athletics facilities that have resulted in a safer, more competitive athletic environment for all our student athletes and visitors. So, logically, we are excited about enhancing our other two pillars – Academics and Military.

Our enrollment has grown by more than 100 students over the past 10 years. Our Corps of Cadets also has grown to 155 cadets – the highest enrollment since the military program became optional in 1976. We expect this rate of growth to continue and are planning for a campus that will accommodate as many as 600 students.

This capital campaign – which we are calling “Advancing the Mission” – will be the first step in a campus master plan of what TMI might look like in 20, 25 or even 50 years, as we maintain educational leadership by meeting the needs of future students.

We will start by constructing two buildings to enhance our offerings in the Academic and Military pillars. A new Science and Technology Center will signify TMI's commitment to remaining a technologically advanced leader in college-preparatory education. This building will greatly increase our classroom space with eight classroom labs and four seminar rooms designed for project-based learning that will integrate research and scholarship across the "STEM disciplines" of science, technology, engineering and math. Students also will learn communications skills that will help them relate STEM learning to social sciences and the humanities. The configuration of these new classrooms will make them especially well-adapted for another project that is in the planning stages, offering our seniors an opportunity to complete a "capstone project" before graduation.

For our Corps of Cadets, we are planning the school's first purpose-built Cadet Center, which will recognize the area's premier JROTC program with dedicated space for leadership studies classrooms and meeting rooms, as well as a Learning Commons for guest speakers and other events, including school theatrical productions.

As some of these missions move out of existing buildings, we will renovate some spaces and repurpose them for new uses. We will also expand the capacity of our Refectory, adding spaces for student groups that meet at lunchtime.

Equally important, we intend to grow our endowment to provide funds and to continuously update the new buildings, increase opportunities for student research, and master teacher fellowships.

As the bishop stated earlier, our goal is to accomplish all of this for a total of about \$14 million for the building projects and an additional \$3 million which will be added to our existing endowment of \$6 million.

The expectation is that it will take about two or three years to raise the funds and pledges necessary to begin construction and another two to complete it. These facilities will be well-planned and will serve their purpose for decades to come.

I know that in this audience we may have current TMI parents, former parents and alumni. And I know you may be asking yourself, "Why is this capital campaign important to us...and why is it important when TMI is already doing so well?"

To answer those questions, I'd like to introduce you, virtually, to a few of our students, who excel in the areas the capital campaign intends to target. It's true that these students – two seniors and a junior – will have graduated by the time the building projects are completed. So as we look at the TMI careers of LeSean, the leader; Hector, the STEM scholar; and Allie, the artist...I'd

like you to imagine three other students, who are, even as I speak, now in first, second or third grade. These younger children will be just as talented, just as eager to learn as LeSean, Hector and Allie, and they and their families will have at least as many choices about where they go to middle school or high school. With our next capital campaign, it's our goal to make TMI their first and best choice.

LeSean Brown came to us as a ninth grader. He was one of two recipients that year of an Alkek Scholarship, a four-year, full-tuition merit award for students who already have shown exceptional leadership potential in the classroom and are expected to set an example for their peers. He has lived up to that potential and beyond, as a leader in the classroom, in the Corps and on the basketball court.

As his college counselor says, "LeSean will not be outworked." He made National Honor Society in the first year possible, has taken a demanding course load of AP and honors courses and ranks near the top of his class – all while playing or practicing basketball an average of four hours a day. In the TMI Corps, he rose to one of the top officer positions; as a company commander, he is responsible for the conduct and training of 35 other students.

Popular and respected as LeSean is at TMI, he is also well-known beyond school walls. A mainstay of the varsity basketball team for all four years, he has received numerous awards and this year, became San Antonio's citywide career scoring leader with a total of 3,024 points...and counting. He also received appointments from West Point, the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy – and decided to go to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, where he will play Division I NCAA basketball and hopes to qualify to become a pilot.

Asked what he thought about a new military building at TMI, LeSean said it would create a more respectful environment for Corps training. At present, Corps classrooms and offices are in the lower level of Frost Athletic Center. As LeSean says, "It's hard to tell if someone is returning a salute when a bunch of people in athletic uniforms are running past you."

You've already seen TMI senior Hector Castillo in one of the first slides of this presentation; he's one of our National Merit finalists this year. He's also a National Hispanic Scholar and was a member of a TMI robotics team that was the only San Antonio team to compete in the international finals in St. Louis two years ago. Hector is in the enviable position of having to decide between Cal Tech and MIT for college. Hector plans to study aeronautical engineering because he wants to work for NASA or SpaceX, designing the spacecraft that will go to Mars.

Hector came to us in seventh grade; that was also the year he got interested in robotics, through our then-new team. He says he always liked to make things and be creative, so he tried robotics and found out that he loved it and was great at it. Meanwhile, he took all the AP math and

science courses TMI offers and is currently studying his third year of calculus, differential equations.

At TMI, robotics is a **co-curricular activity** that reinforces what students are learning in science classes and helps them put that knowledge into practice on real-life projects for competition. Students work together, but each specializes in the area they're most interested in – programming, “driving” or operating the robots or – Hector's favorite – engineering and design. Competitions set a task for the robots to perform, and the contestants work together to plan a machine that can do the job.

Although you might think of his work as solitary, competitions and the team format make it what the robotics student culture calls “co-oper-tition.” Teams form alliances with other teams, help each other out with advice and spare parts and learn from each other while they compete for awards. Using TMI's 3-D printer, Hector founded a Maker's Club at TMI, for students like himself who want to challenge themselves and help each other to create ingenious items. As Hector says, “You can make something, and it can be beautiful, or it can be useful, and if you really get it right, it can be both.” He appreciates the opportunity to attend daily chapel and to take religious studies courses because, he says, “TMI has taught me the value of taking time to reflect and to have an open mind – and that's really important in math and science.”

Besides competitions, Hector has taught summer workshops introducing robotics to younger children. A few years ago, he was invited to join an area-wide robotics team where the robots are up to five feet tall and can weigh as much as 200 pounds – as he says, “These are big robots that do big jobs.” As he looks to the future of TMI robotics, Hector estimates that we will need a dedicated machine shop and two larger practice fields, one for middle school and one for high school.

Our next student, Alexandra Prado – we call her “Allie” – came to us in sixth grade from St. Thomas Episcopal School in San Antonio. She's at least a triple threat in the arts. Allie loves poetry; she has made it to the state level in the Poetry Out Loud recitation contest and recently won a Gold Key award for one of her poems in the Scholastic Art Awards. She also loves creating visual art and has won some awards for that, too. And she's an actress who says she loves theater, “because it's a collaborative art.” She's interested in writing for the theater, loves painting sets and most of all, acting.

Allie has taken a variety of art courses at TMI, exhibited her visual art at the ISAS Arts Festival and plans to take AP Studio Art next year – one of the most challenging Advanced Placement courses there is, because the student must stay on pace to complete a portfolio of 30 artworks in

different media. She thinks of herself as a “late-bloomer” in theater; it wasn’t until she participated in Poetry Out Loud that she realized she loves performing.

Allie has had featured roles in TMI productions of “Hearts Like Fists,” “Don’t U Love Me” and “Crazytown.” She’s now in rehearsal for a starring role in our Upper School Spring Musical, “Little Shop of Horrors.” She has also acted in shows at the Woodlawn Theater, “Peter Pan” and “Hairspray.” Comparing the two settings, she says it would be great if TMI had a larger stage because you can do have more complex sets and find more inventive ways to move around the stage. Her ambition is to go to college in a city with a lively theater scene – she’s thinking about schools in Chicago and Los Angeles – and study psychology, creative writing and theater, in hopes of becoming a clinical psychologist who specializes in art therapy.

I hope you’ve enjoyed “meeting” – at least virtually -- a few of our students, and I can assure you that there are many more who have found their passion at TMI and are determined to develop their knowledge and skills. Without a doubt, they will be servant-leaders of the future, and we will be proud to have helped set them on their path.

Earlier, I asked you to consider some younger students...the leaders, scientists and artists of the future...who might now be first or second or third graders at one of our diocesan schools or at another private or public school in our region.

These are the students we’re holding in our hearts and minds as we plan this capital campaign...the students we hope will graduate from TMI nine or ten years from now. We need your help to keep pace with their needs as they prepare to be the next generation of servant-leaders.

We will be calling on all friends of TMI to help us achieve our goals. Please know we could not be the school that we are...and hope to be...without your support. We are especially grateful to Bishop Gary and Catherine Lillibridge for agreeing to be our campaign co-chairs, with the help of Suzanne and David Dickie, members of St. Luke’s, San Antonio, and parents of **four** current TMI students; and Board of Governors member Denny Ware and his wife Suzanne, who are current TMI grandparents.

We ask for your continued support and your prayers as we embark on this ambitious plan to grow our beloved school to serve the needs of diocesan and other South Texas families well into the present century. Thank you.