



## Building a People of Faith

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TO BUILD CHURCH  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

# TBCTimes

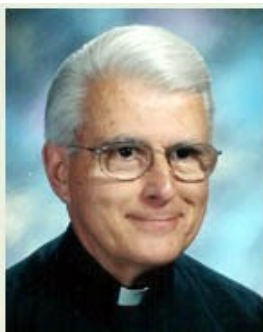
Saint Joseph Parish, Old Mission San Jose

July 2009

43148 Mission Boulevard, Fremont, California 94539  
website: [www.saintjosephmsj.org](http://www.saintjosephmsj.org)

Phone: 510/656-2364 Fax: 510/656-2438  
Pledge Line: 510/656-2364 x104

## What is Happening in Our Church? A Letter from Monsignor Manuel Simas



"Thus says the Lord God...keep on going, regardless of resistance." What a powerful message. How many times do we face adversity, challenges, differences in values and judgment? Jesus faced these same obstacles throughout His life here on earth. People could not see His goodness even though He did so many wonderful things. Many of those who could see, did not realize the depth of his power and endurance.

The challenges we face today as a people of God and on a more intimate level, as one church family are real and require our attention, compassion and willingness to work together for the common good and goals of our parish and the community at large.

Our concentration on fellowship, spirituality, and financial responsibility are the common threads of our To Build Church initiative, which is intended to do more than just build new facilities for our parish. Its purpose is also to encourage us to grow as the people of God. We enrich ourselves by enriching the lives of others. This is what we are called to do and be as the Body of Christ.

Summertime provides the opportunity for respite and rejuvenation. We enjoy the good weather, special time away with family and friends, and opportunities to share our many talents and gifts with those around us. Jesus is present to us through our gifts and through others.

As a parish family we look forward to enjoying events that are coming up in the next several months. Our Let's Get Together Barbecue, Parish Picnic and Ministry Sunday are just a few of the exciting opportunities we offer to meet new people, make new friends, strengthen current relationships, and participate in the planning and hosting of our renowned and well-attended social events.

As a parish family we continue to work together, side by side, as we acknowledge and recognize the need to increase our plate collection despite the news, despite the current economy and despite any negativity in our midst. Since I announced in last month's TBC Times that we are deferring the start of the next phase of our capital campaign, several parishioners have expressed concern about the priorities of our master plan. Others have questioned our ability to raise the additional funds required to build a new church. The back page of this newsletter responds to these questions.

There is never the perfect time or the perfect plan. Whether we build our new church now or later does not augment or diminish the need for a stable and productive environment for ourselves and those we serve today. Our financial support of the parish is not a luxury, it is a necessity and new church or not, we are the providers of our own destiny.

Our support of ministries that give so much to all of us and to our community and the place that we gather as a family to worship, should be an ongoing part of our everyday routine, much like living and breathing. We do not choose when to breathe. We just do it.

Stewardship is not about fundraising, nor is it something practiced during good economic times only. It is a way of life, a way of thanking God for our many gifts. Stewardship focuses upon the spiritual need of the giver to give. Stewardship comes from understanding that all that we are and all that we have are gifts from God. I emphasize an intentional approach to Christian giving in order to promote spiritual growth within our congregation. Prayerfully reflect upon how and what you give in terms of your God-given time, talent and treasure. Be honest with yourself and with God. We are so capable and can do so much more than what we are doing right now.

We have a road ahead of us to travel. The reality is we are here together as a family in this church, worshipping God side by side, day after day, week after week. We make this choice fully aware and without reservation. We have chosen to make this journey with each other. As a unified, giving, congregation we can make a difference, together.

Peace and love,

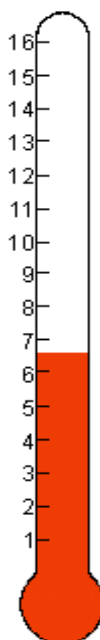
*Father Manny*

Monsignor Manuel Simas

### Capital Campaign Corner

- Shortfall \$9,486,000
- Other Income \$700,000
- Property Sales \$5,275,000
- 2nd Campaign \$2,439,000
- 1st Campaign \$4,100,000

Pledge Line:  
510/656-2364 x104  
Or pledge online at:  
[www.saintjosephmsj.org](http://www.saintjosephmsj.org)





View of worship space from rear plaza.

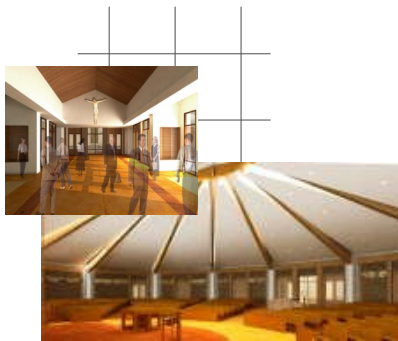
## From the Coordinating Committee

Communication is a key element in the success of any group effort.

The Coordinating Committee will be issuing this newsletter as a regular insert into the bulletin and other church mailers to keep the parish at large informed on the progress of our project.

- Monsignor Manuel Simas
- Father Joseph Nguyen
- Ashley Weerpass
- Matthew Au
- Bob Ballecer
- Scott Bergstrom
- Don and Lauri Kaefer
- Tony Mirenda
- Jim Petersen
- Cris Raimundo
- Debbie Rossetto
- Richard Sekar
- Bill Utic

Look for each issue of the TBC Times to give you the latest update on how we are doing, what we are doing, and what more is to come as we rebuild our church together.



Renderings of new church interiors:  
Top: Narthex before entering worship space.  
Above: Inside worship space looking from choir area.

## Will deferring the capital campaign delay construction of our new church?

Yes and No. As reported in previous editions of the TBC Times, the Coordinating Committee believes it is essential that we develop a solid financial plan in order to obtain the diocese's approval of the necessary construction loan. To do this, we need to demonstrate that we are able to meet our current financial responsibilities. This is the reason for our emphasis on improving the plate collection through better financial stewardship, which will take time to bear fruit.

In addition, our financial plan includes using funds raised from the sale of surplus land at the parish-owned St. Joseph Cemetery on Mission Boulevard (this is not the small cemetery next to the Mission). A previous offer of approximately \$6 million to buy this property fell through, which is a primary reason why construction of our new church did not begin at the conclusion of the second phase of our capital campaign three years ago. We do not want this to happen again.

For this reason, the Coordinating Committee is hiring an experienced consultant to work with the city and county to secure the approvals needed to subdivide the property for housing development. This will significantly increase the value of the land to potential buyers and allow the property to be sold without contingencies. Because this effort is expected to take 18 to 24 months, deferring the next phase of the capital campaign will not further delay the project. During this time, we are hopeful that the real estate market will also improve, further increasing the value of the property.

## Why not build the multipurpose building instead?

The Coordinating Committee is following the priorities established in the parish master plan: (1) construction of the new church, (2) renovation of the existing church building for additional meeting space, and (3) construction of the multipurpose building. To ensure that we can ultimately realize all three goals, we have already purchased the land for the multipurpose purpose building.

Because the multipurpose building is the third phase of the parish master plan, we have not done any engineering and architectural design or begun the environmental studies and other work required to gain city approval of the multipurpose building. Based upon our experience securing the approval for the new church, this process will take many years to complete. Finally, the estimated cost of design, permits, site preparation, archeological mitigation and construction of the multipurpose building will not be less expensive than the remaining cost to construct our new church.

## What happened to the money already raised by our capital campaigns?

We have used these funds to purchase the property for the future multipurpose building; relocate the rectory from the new church site; complete the architectural design, environmental studies and archeological mitigation and obtain city approvals for the new church; relocate burial plots to prepare the surplus cemetery land for sale; restore the stained glass windows which are in storage for use in the Eucharistic chapel of the new church; make repairs to the Ministry House 1 and 2 buildings that we acquired when we purchased the land for the multipurpose building; and pay capital campaign expenses. We have \$1.2 million remaining on deposit with the diocese and expect to receive an additional \$600,000 as current campaign pledges are paid.

## How will we raise the rest of the money we need to construct our new church?

We have already raised or identified over half of the funds needed to complete the first two phases of the master plan (the new church and hall renovation) as well as purchasing the land for phase 3 (the multi-purpose building). We still need to raise about \$9.5 million. That's a lot of money, but this parish, like many other parishes (and the St. Joseph parishioners who preceded us and built the school and current church), has sufficient financial ability to fund the remaining cost of the new church.

There are many families that have not yet made a pledge, and new families join the parish every year. Many of those who have already made and paid their pledges will be asked to consider making an additional pledge. And as mentioned in last month's TBC Times, if every family contributed one hour's wages each week to the plate collection, we wouldn't even need another capital campaign! The diocese has said it will lend us the remaining money to construct the new church if we can show with our financial plan how we will be able to pay back the loan. The cemetery land sale, pledges and improved plate collections will all be part of how we accomplish this.