

November 2009

43148 Mission Boulevard, Fremont, California 94539
website: www.saintjosephmsj.org

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



Building a People of Faith

In this issue:

What is Happening in Our Church?	1
Capital Campaign Corner	1
The Eight Beatitudes Plus Twelve More...	2
The Last Twelve Months	2
From the Coordinating Committee	2

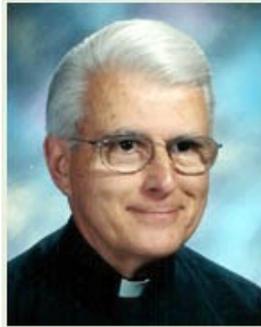
Capital Campaign Corner

- 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



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



This weekend the Church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints. This feast helps us to remember the heart of our baptismal call: that we are called to be holy. We have wonderful examples of this holiness in the saints, named and unnamed, whom we honor today. Monday, All Souls' Day, we remember family members and friends who have gone before us in faith. Many of them also set saintly examples for us by how they lived their lives. All the saints teach us that being a disciple of Jesus Christ is an active choice that we make each day.

We are all "saints-in-training" - every one of us! The lives of the saints and saintly give us concrete examples of how to live the

Gospel: To "do" the Word and not just hear the Word. Our many parish ministries offer a wide array of opportunities to put our faith into action.

St. Joseph is a vibrant and diverse community because of the wonderful, dedicated volunteers who generously "do" the Word by sharing their treasure, time and talent to minister to our parish family and to others in need. Last month, I encouraged you to join a parish ministry, and I'm pleased to report that over 150 ministry sign-up cards were returned. Thank you!

Of course, in order to sustain our parish and its ministries, we need to have adequate financial resources and support. The weekly Parish Finance Committee report in the Sunday bulletin provides useful budgeting suggestions and information about our plate collection. Did you know that just 19% of our registered families contribute more than 50% of our weekly income? And that the remaining 81% contribute an average of only \$6.50 per week? Surely we can do better! Please consider increasing your weekly contribution by at least \$5 per week. God loves us for free, but St. Joseph parish has bills to pay!

As you know, in the June TBC Times I announced my decision to delay the next phase of our capital campaign. In these difficult economic times, many among us suffer from unemployment, underemployment or loss of savings. I know that I can count on your support for the capital campaign when times are better.

In the meantime, we have hired a consultant to help us subdivide surplus land at the parish cemetery on Mission Boulevard near Durham Road. Selling this surplus land is part of the financial plan for building our new church. Subdividing and selling this land is expected to take 18 to 24 months. Until this is completed, there will not be much visible activity on the new church project or the capital campaign. However, the TBC Coordinating Committee will continue to be busy behind the scenes.

It's been just over a year since we began publishing the monthly TBC Times. The site of our new church is still an empty lot, but we have continued to grow together as a parish family, and much has been accomplished to "build church" here at St. Joseph. Please see the back page for a review of what's occurred over the last twelve months.

May we continue to "work together with love and care, ever mindful that the spirit, not the structure, is the essence of the design."

Peace and love,

Father Manny

Monsignor Manuel Simas



View of worship space from rear plaza.

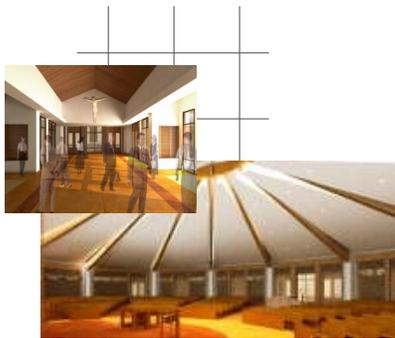
From the Coordinating Committee

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
- Scott Bergstrom
- Don Kaefer
- Lauri Kaefer
- Tony Mirinda
- 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.

The Eight Beatitudes Plus Twelve More... According to Father Manny

Jesus gave us the eight Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus' message was one of humility, charity, and brotherly love. While the Beatitudes provide a way of life that promises salvation, they also provide peace in the midst of our trials and tribulations on this earth.

Father Manny came up with a few additional "Parish Beatitudes" that relate to our daily lives at St. Joseph:

- ◆ *Blessed are those who participate in ministries and share their talents with others, for they are doing God's work on earth.*
- ◆ *Blessed are those who give freely of their earthly treasures, for they shall overflow with God's grace.*
- ◆ *Blessed are those who share the gift of faith with others, for they shall receive even more faith in return.*
- ◆ *Blessed are those who give food and warm jackets to the homeless, for they shall never be cold of heart.*
- ◆ *Blessed are those who visit the elderly and shut-in, for they shall never be alone.*
- ◆ *Blessed are those who sing and make music for the Lord, for their songs will lift to heaven and touch the face of God.*
- ◆ *Blessed are those who honor and care for family members, for God will protect and guide them.*
- ◆ *Blessed are those who educate our children, for they will be honored all the days of their lives.*
- ◆ *Blessed are those who participate in parish social events, for friends will always surround them.*
- ◆ *Blessed are those who overlook the faults of others, for God will overlook theirs.*
- ◆ *Blessed are those who pray for vocations, for some day they may enjoy better homilies.*
- ◆ *Blessed are those who remain until the final hymn is over, for they will never need to explain to God what was more important.*
- ◆ *Blessed are those who leave home early to arrive on time for Mass, for they shall receive the best parking spaces.*

The Last Twelve Months...

What Have We Accomplished as a Community?

It has been quite a busy year here at St. Joseph's and it's time to circle back and review just how far we've come. The list is long and admirable. You have shown your love for God and His Church by the way you continue to strive to be a part of our church family. A famous author once said, "Life is not having and getting, but being and becoming." Look at all the contributions you have made to our parish:

- ◆ Increased volunteer participation and support of our fellowship and social events on a regular basis.
- ◆ Increased awareness and appreciation for all members of our parish community with an emphasis on bringing each group together as one main assembly, filled with faith and true consideration of each other.
- ◆ Ever-growing ministries and special interest groups within our parish designed to include all and extend the invitation to become involved. We experienced exceptional participation and group effort in the implementation of our most recent Ministry Fair Sunday.
- ◆ Solid efforts to increase and maintain our plate collection, despite market conditions and economical downturn. We have been diligent in seeing the need to keep God in first position.
- ◆ Increased participation and use of electronic funds transfer (EFT) and credit card payment options to lend stability and enhanced reliability to our plate collection.
- ◆ Increased and improved efforts to really take the time to know our neighbor with the expansion of after-Mass hospitality to two Sundays a month.
- ◆ Parish-wide volunteer growth on specific tasks that incorporate specialized uses of time and talent i.e. computer literacy, finance and law backgrounds, multi-lingual assistance, desktop publishing, engineering, construction, and an array of other fields of expertise.
- ◆ Increased communication on every level including stewardship, financial planning and budgeting, parish operations and the status of our building project.
- ◆ Top level music ministry and growing participation at each and every mass, including the fulfillment of additional commitments to the Oakland Cathedral and special Holy Day commemorations.