

## Building a People of Faith

TO BUILD CHURCH  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

# TBCTimes

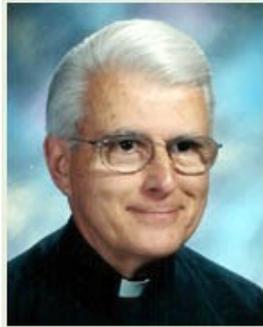
Saint Joseph Parish, Old Mission San Jose

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



The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. It is the season of hope, the season of joy, with the promise of new birth and everlasting life for those who believe. Advent reminds us that with God, all things are possible. We can reach beyond the self imposed limits of our lives and with faith accomplish more than we ever imagined.

Like John the Baptist, we are called to prepare the way of the Lord, to make God’s kingdom on earth experienced by all. The message, the whole meaning and purpose of John’s ministry was centered on preparing the people for God’s Holy One to be revealed, to prepare

the way for Jesus Christ to enter our hearts.

### In this issue:

What is Happening in Our Church?	1
Capital Campaign Corner	1
Environment for Catholic Worship	2
From the Coordinating Committee	2

Implementing our parish Master Plan is much like the journey of John the Baptist. We are preparing the place where we gather as a parish community to welcome Jesus. As we continue to move forward, we keep our eyes focused on more fully becoming the “church” we are called to be. Our energy and efforts focus on not just the physical church building, but on the spiritual parts of being church as well. Our physical church provides space to gather for worship and serve others through parish ministries. Our Master Plan opens up new possibilities and opportunities for all who use our physical facilities. It allows us the chance to worship more effectively and to further develop and strengthen the many vital ministries we have here at St. Joseph.

The spiritual aspects of church focus on issues that touch people in our everyday lives. Faith formation, family life, social justice, healthcare, housing, hunger and unemployment, to name a few. Our ministries exist to help us understand the central role that God must have in our lives, and to provide us with opportunities to further God’s kingdom here on earth by sharing our faith and reaching out to those in need.

We have spent the better part of ten years preparing the way. Our job is not finished yet. Part of preparing is understanding the significance of the details that go into the creation of our new church and facilities. The back page of our newsletter is the first in a series that will explore the key concepts behind the design of our new church building and other aspects of our Master Plan.

I continue to remind you of the significant role that stewardship plays in our daily lives. Stewardship is a way of life. It shapes the way we think, the things we do, the choices we make. Stewardship involves the intentional, ongoing and generous giving back of the time, talents and treasure that God has given us. The arrival of God’s kingdom, which we anticipate in this Advent season, is hastened through our faithful stewardship.

As we prayerfully consider how we can individually help prepare the way of the Lord, I ask you to begin by committing one hour’s wages per week to our plate collection. Secondly, I ask you to increase your support of our parish ministries through volunteering and sharing at least one hour per week of your God-given talents and time. Lastly, I encourage those who are not yet participating to join us.

The Lord has done great things for us. Let us do great things for Him. Go out and make ready the way of the Lord.

Peace and love,

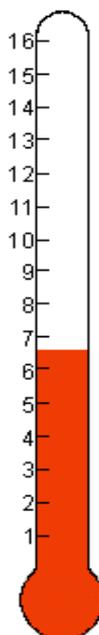
*Father Manny*

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

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View of worship space from rear plaza.

# Environment for Catholic Worship

## Part 1 The Living Church

We begin our look at spaces for Roman Catholic worship by recognizing that the word we often use to describe a building—church—is best understood first as a word to describe a people, a community of believers in union with Christ. And even when describing a people it can mean the smallest grouping—the domestic church, to the largest—the universal church. The focus of our attention in this series will be the place where the local church celebrates the mysteries of our faith as a parish.

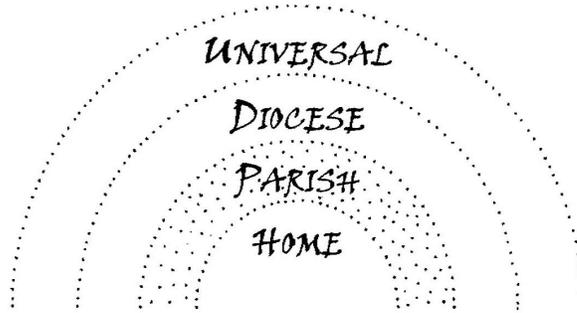
### From the Coordinating Committee

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
- Don Kaefer
- Lauri Kaefer
- Tony Miranda
- Jim Petersen
- Cris Raimundo
- Debbie Rossetto
- 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.

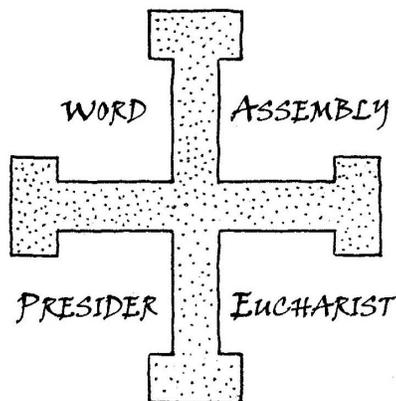


The church building provides a place for the community of faith to respond to Jesus' invitation to become one with him in the praise and thanksgiving of God, whom he called "Abba." Here, we recognize Christ in "the breaking of the bread," in the proclamation of our sacred stories, and in the very assembly gathered here to remember how God has claimed us as a chosen people.

In this place, the church remembers the blessings and covenants of the past. It unites itself with Christ in the New Covenant and responds to Christ's command to "Do this in memory of me." And so this building must serve the action of the assembly as it celebrates the mystery of redemption. It is the place where the presence of Christ is experienced in all of its manifestations—the gathered assembly, the proclamation of the Word, the sharing and the reservation of the Eucharist, and in the person of the presiding priest.



Orans or "praying figure" in the 4<sup>th</sup> century Via Latina catacomb



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

The liturgy that we celebrate here is the source and summit of our Christian life, a life marked by daily acts of self-sacrifice and concern for the poor and alienated, the sick and imprisoned, both within and beyond our circle of family and friends. The hospitality and care that must characterize the daily life of a Christian should also be present in the place where Christians gather.