

*Building
a People
of Faith*

TO BUILD CHURCH
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

TBCTimes

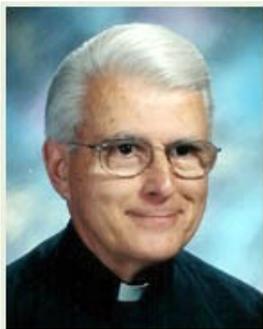
Saint Joseph Parish, Old Mission San Jose

February 2010

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



There is nothing “ordinary” about Ordinary Time in our liturgical year. Sometimes it may seem to get lost before and after our Advent and Lenten seasons, but clearly this is a time set aside for reflecting on and celebrating our call to follow Jesus day by day.

Ordinary Time calls us to reflect upon the Paschal Mystery and our call to discipleship throughout the year. These Sundays of the entire year are counted and set aside as sacred time.

Last Sunday we heard how Jesus was rejected in his hometown of Nazareth. He begins his ministry of teaching and healing and performs his first public miracles. Today, we hear Isaiah answer God’s call. What was Isaiah’s response when he heard the voice of

the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” With confidence and without hesitation, Isaiah answered the Lord saying, “Here I am, send me!”

In today’s Gospel we listen to Luke tell the story of Jesus fishing in the Sea of Galilee. We read and listen to the familiar recount of how the disciples left their lives and everything they had to follow Jesus. The message is simple and clear. We are all called. What does it mean for us? Are we like Isaiah and St. Peter and St. Paul? Are we really listening and responding to God’s call? Jesus is the net that God drops down into the sea of humanity. Like the fish, we are gathered and pulled to shore.

As a parish community and a people of God we do respond. We follow the example of Isaiah and the disciples. We use the gifts God gave us to transform ourselves into new people and lead others to Jesus and the Kingdom of Heaven. We reach out and show compassion to our brothers and sisters in times of need. The call to respond to the devastating circumstances surrounding the people of Haiti has been exemplary. You answered that call instantly and without hesitation. You take action in your daily lives to help the poor, feed the hungry, visit the sick and dying, and respond with kindness and consideration to all God’s children.

The progress we are making as a parish is commendable . Next week our financial standing for 2009 will be reported in our bulletin. Your increased support of our weekly plate collection shows a growth of 12.5% over our figures for 2008. We have a long way to go to reach our financial goals as a parish, but we have a healthy start and it is obvious you hear the call and are responding. I encourage you to continue your financial support of our parish and strive to match, increase or surpass our mantra of “one hour per week” in treasure, time and talent. As a people of God, we are all responsible for the upkeep and growth of our parish and its many ministries. I thank you for acknowledging this special privilege with your support.

Our Master Plan is still underway and we have made positive progress toward the entitlement of the unused cemetery land we intend to sell in a better market. This step is vital to the advancement of our plan and the ultimate objective of building a new church and more adequate facilities. Alameda County has recorded the quitclaim deed which acknowledges the Church as the sole owner of the easement into the cemetery property. This past month, WestGate (the firm retained to attain the entitlement) held their first meeting with the residents surrounding the land. They presented some very preliminary proposals of what the site could look like when developed. In later newsletters we will recap WestGate’s progress and long list of accomplishments since bringing them onboard in October of 2009.

Ordinary Time? Not hardly. Perhaps we should refer to it as “Extraordinary Time.”

Peace and love,

Father Manny

Monsignor Manuel Simas

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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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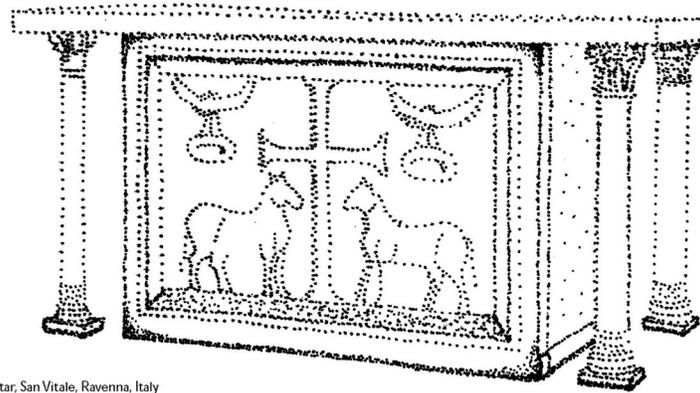


View of worship space from rear plaza.

Environment for Catholic Worship Part 2 The Altar

It is amazing that two of the most common daily activities that humans share—eating and drinking are also the way Catholic Christians mark their most important encounter with the sacred. Yet, even though we often find ourselves “grabbing a bite” on the way to something more important or pressing, we can all remember times in our lives when a meal meant more than fast food.

Think back to the most important meals in your life. It would be hard to imagine a wedding celebration without some sort of reception following. Funerals too, are often concluded with a meal shared by friends and family.



6th century altar, San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy

Jesus, who began his public ministry at the wedding feast at Cana and raised eyebrows by eating with notorious sinners, also chose to gather his closest companions to celebrate a special meal on the night before he died.

Within the context of the Jewish Passover, he marked his own Passover as the sacrificial lamb, by taking, blessing, breaking and sharing the most common of Mediterranean food staples—bread and wine.

Now we do the same in his memory, and recognize his presence among us.

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In many ancient cultures, altars were erected as stone slabs to offer crops or animal or even human victims as a sacrifice to the deity. In our buildings for worship, we also call the table of the Eucharist an altar on which a ritual, sacrificial meal makes present the paschal mystery—Christ’s life, death and resurrection. We join our lives with Christ in this offering to the Father.

In the beginning, Christian communities gathered in homes to celebrate this ritual meal. As their numbers grew, these communities adapted homes and eventually built spaces specifically for worship. In these spaces, the shape of the table evolved from a dining table for daily meals to one more suited to the ritual meal. It became taller and more square. Though it frequently retained aspects of a table, it was, at times, also fashioned from stone and more and more became fixed within the building.

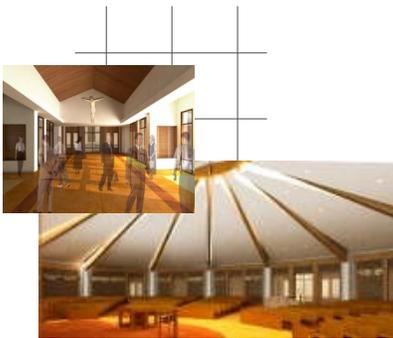
From the Coordinating Committee

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.



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