

November 2008

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

Phone: 510/656-2364 Fax: 510/656-2438
Pledge Line: 510/656-2364 x103



Building a People of Faith

In this issue:

What is Happening with
the New Church? 1

Capital Campaign Corner 1

What Are the Answers to
Our Questions? 2

How Can I Contribute to
Our Project? 2

From the Coordinating
Committee 2

Capital Campaign Corner

- Total Cost \$22,000,000
 - Shortfall \$9,486,000
 - Other Income \$700,000
 - Property Sales \$5,275,000
-
- 2nd Campaign \$2,439,000
 - 1st Campaign \$4,100,000

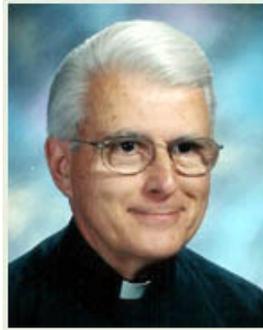
Pledge Line:

510/656-2364 x103

Or pledge online at:

www.saintjosephmsj.org

What is Happening with the New Church? A Letter from Monsignor Manuel Simas



Last month we published our first TBC Times newsletter regarding our To Build Church Campaign and the status of our church project. Your response has been exceedingly positive. We will continue to provide you the most current information regarding our progress and the role that each and every one of us play in the development and growth of our community as a parish family.

Three weekends ago a flyer in the bulletin from the Parish Finance Committee described the status of our 2008 plate collection year to date and the budget deficit we are facing. Although the deficit is not large, it is a serious concern that we must correct. Both the new church project and our operating budget deficit revolve around the same things...revenue, commitment, and stewardship.

Speaking on the topic of money has never been a favorite of mine. We have not been as communicative about our fiscal responsibility as a people of God as we should.

With the experience, knowledge, and support of our Finance Committee and To Build Church Coordinating Committee, and your affirmative feedback, I believe our goal of building a new church and ensuring the financial success of our current church are not only highly desired, but clearly achievable.

Our first steps begin right here in discussing openly what it is we need to do in order to be financially stable and successful as a parish. We need to understand, as individuals and as a community, what is required of all of us. None are exempt from this privilege and responsibility.

Revenue is essential to the success of any household, business or corporation. The church is no exception. New church or old church...each require the same fundamental elements.

Being good stewards, including supporting our parish operations with our time, talent and treasure, is not about what someone else should do for us. *It is about how we are all going to do this for ourselves, our Church, and for our God.* We all have to be onboard and believe in who and what we are in Christ. If we can do this, each one of us, we will not only build our new church, but we will demonstrate that we truly are one Church, one Body, rich in faith, embedded in community, stable and prosperous in all we do. We can and will provide both welcoming and supportive parish ministries and a permanent place of worship for you, me, and our community.

Education begins at home. This is our home, this is our parish, this is our family. We live here in and with Jesus. We are all responsible for our part. Can we do this? The answer is yes.

I am committed to bringing to the forefront what it takes for our parish community to flourish and grow. I ask for your support and your commitment to our current church and to the vision and completion of our new church.

Peace and love,

Father Manny

Monsignor Manuel Simas



View of worship space from rear plaza.

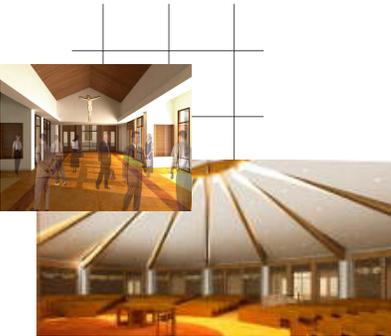
From the Coordinating Committee

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
- Bob Ballecer
- Scott Bergstrom
- Don and Lauri Kaefer
- Tony Miranda
- 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.

What Are the Answers to Our Questions? Responses to Important Issues

Q: Why did the cost of building our new church go up so much?

A: The project scope has not changed. The biggest reason for the increased cost is the additional studies required by the city and the resulting time delays in receiving the necessary approvals. This delayed the start of the project by several years and during this extra time construction material costs have increased nearly 30%.

Q: If costs continue to increase where will additional funds come from?

A: The coordinating committee is looking at alternative construction materials and methods that may be less costly. This is also why our new financial plan includes a loan from the diocese, so that we can borrow the remaining funds we need and start construction before costs go higher.

Q: We've already had two capital campaigns. What is different about this one?

A: The previous campaigns were intended to pay for the project in just a few years, which meant that participation required relatively large contributions. Only a small portion of parishioners were able to participate. The new approach stretches the payment period to 15 years, requiring much smaller pledge payments. This will allow ALL parishioners to participate in building our new church.

Q: How many families are needed to support the new campaign?

A: Our parish currently has membership in excess of 2200 families. If every family participates, we will need an average commitment of \$10 per week. If only half of our families participate, we will need an average of \$20 per week. Our intent is to engage each and every family at an appropriate level.

Q: How many families will honor their pledge over a fifteen-year period?

A: We understand that some families will move on from our parish, but new families will step in and take their place.

How Can I Contribute to Our Project? There Are Many Ways to Support Our Church

In the coming issues, we will further address the importance and significance of financial participation by each and every member of our parish. We will discuss the weekly plate collection as well as our campaign to build a new church. We will outline specific examples and suggested giving levels designed to include a wide range of household incomes and take into consideration each individual's ability to participate.

Pledges: Pledges will be the major factor in obtaining a loan from the Diocese and are the easiest way to support the new church project. Pledges allow you to budget specific recurring amounts you can pay on a monthly or weekly basis. We will be establishing a way for families to have their contributions deducted automatically from their bank account.

Stock giving: Donating appreciated securities is one of the most tax-effective ways of contributing to the Capital Campaign. There are two advantages: 1) The donor is able to take a tax deduction for the market (appreciated) value of the securities; and 2) avoid paying capital gains tax on the gain. The parish gets the full market value of the securities. Of course, we recommend you consult your tax advisor before taking this action.

Estate planning: Designating the Capital Campaign as a beneficiary is another effective way to contribute. Your commitment to fund the Campaign over the long term will help us demonstrate to the Diocese our ability to repay the loan, while such a commitment would not require any cash outlays from you in the short term.

Our journey continues. More to follow in our next update.