

March 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

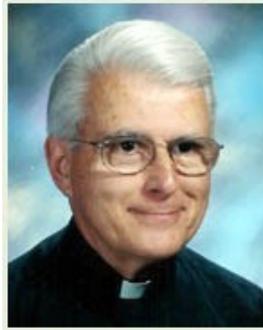


Building a People of Faith

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



Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and sacrifice, self-examination, and penitence for all Christians as we prepare to celebrate Easter. This season reminds us how much we need grace in our lives. God's grace helps us to live transformed lives that reflect God's love. During Lent, the Church calls us to acknowledge our need of God's transforming presence.

As we enter this special period in our liturgical year, which so closely follows the Christmas season, we give thanks to the Father for the many gifts that He has given us. Let us be mindful that Jesus, in the parable of the good steward, teaches us that God expects us to make good use of these gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Good stewardship is the theme of our To Build Church (TBC) effort.

Building a new church is one of our TBC goals but it is not the only or most important goal. In our Parish Prayer, we ask for God's help to mold our parish community into a place where Jesus is the cornerstone. We demonstrate that Jesus is truly our cornerstone by growing closer together as a parish family, by employing our time and talents to minister to others, and by contributing our fair share to the financial needs of the Church and our own parish.

If we are successful in accomplishing these things we will, ultimately, also succeed in building a new parish worship space and renovating the existing church building to meet our need for additional office, meeting and multi-purpose space.

Over the past six months, our TBC team has introduced the stewardship theme of giving back to God "one hour per week." One hour a week in worship, one hour a week of talent in a parish ministry, and one hour a week of wages in the plate collection. I am grateful to you and give thanks to God for your heightened participation in the financial aspects of our Parish and your willingness to share your time and talent.

So as we enter this time of Lenten reflection, let us remind ourselves of what we have accomplished:

- ◆ We have revitalized our TBC team and expanded it to include representatives of the Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Committee and the building project coordinating committee.
- ◆ We have increased communication about stewardship, parish operations and the status of our building project through the monthly TBC Times bulletin insert and my homily at every Mass on the first weekend of each month.
- ◆ We are providing better information about parish finances in the weekly bulletin and have introduced electronic fund transfer (EFT) and credit card payment options for the weekly collection.
- ◆ We have increased the number of participants and volunteers in our parish functions and held three new, very successful social events that have helped bring our parish family together (see the article on page 2).
- ◆ Last month we collected nearly 800 update cards that included e-mail addresses, individual talents, occupations and ministry interests for our parish records. (Many thanks to our data entry volunteers!) We have begun to share this information with the leaders of our parish ministries.

We have a special energy in our midst. The Holy Spirit works through us as we journey together. During this Lenten season, we traditionally sacrifice things that we can do without. To be meaningful, this can only begin with an honest assessment of what is really most important in our lives. In these challenging economic times, I pray that our parish family and its vital ministries remain at the top of our lists. With God's grace, by working with one another and by bringing our many talents to the table, we will attain the goals that are within our reach.

Peace and love,

Father Manny

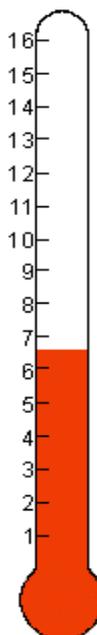
Monsignor Manuel Simas

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.

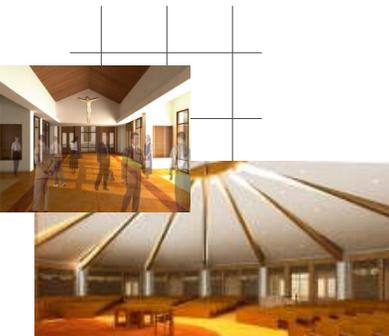
From the Coordinating Committee

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.

How Will the New Church Benefit You? We Asked and You Answered

We asked you to share your thoughts about the benefits of our new Church in your own words. In the next several issues we will reveal the responses from different members and ministries within our Parish.

Bereavement Hospitality spokeswoman, Helen Campbell, shares her thoughts on the influence of our new Church within the community. “Our new church building will provide a beautiful venue for the funeral or memorial of a family member or loved one. The benefit for the Bereavement Hospitality ministry will be the renovation of the present church building. The remodel will provide more usable space for funeral hospitality, storage, and preparation areas which are significant needs for our ministry and many other ministries.”

Old Mission San Jose Administrator, Dolores Ferez, offers her point of view regarding our new Church project. “The new church is badly needed to allow the existing church to be used for Parish events. This will enable us to give our tourists unrestricted time to visit the Mission Church during their time at the Museum. Currently, Parish activities get moved into the Mission Church because the Hall is being used for events that conflict with weddings, funerals and other church events. The new church will allow the existing church to function more appropriately for events, meetings, seminars and retreats without groups competing for available space.”

In speaking with parents of our younger children, the following opinions and statements seemed to have a recurring theme. “The new Church will provide a crying room located toward the rear of the building near the restrooms. Parents will have easier access to the outside of the building instead of always having to walk all the way up to the front of the Church to be seated during Mass, just to turn around and make their way to the back of the Church and the restrooms during Mass. This is extremely distracting to others and we feel embarrassed to disrupt and disturb our fellow parishioners.”

How Far Have We Come? New Social Events Promote Parish Community

The To Build Church team, in cooperation with our many wonderful ministries and volunteers, has planned an exciting annual calendar of events for the entire community. These socials and celebrations are designed to promote fellowship and provide more opportunities to get to know our own Church family better. These events are in addition to other popular parish events and activities sponsored by the Men’s and Women’s Clubs, and the school and various ministries, such as the annual St. Patrick’s Day dinner coming up on March 14.

We began with our “Let’s Get Together!” barbecue last October. The event was a huge success and we had a sell-out crowd. Our events are offered to adults, children, singles, couples, teens and families. All are welcome! This event was the kick-off to a calendar filled with activity and festivity and it contributed a net of over \$5,000 to our Parish operating fund.

Right on the heels of Christmas we celebrated with our “Shaken Not Stirred” New Year’s Eve Party and Dance. What a fabulous time we had with family and friends as we welcomed a very anticipated 2009. We served scrumptious hors d’oeuvres and delectable desserts prepared by our very own Master Chef and parishioner, Attila Csikesz. We danced the night away to the melodious tunes of DJ and parishioner, Bob Popolizio. This event contributed a net of over \$4,000 to our Parish operating fund.

Most recently we had the time of our lives at our Valentine’s Day Dinner Dance. Once again, we sold this event out. We had guests from other parishes, family, friends and a turnout that was absolutely fantastic. The support from the community and our own parish family was sensational. In addition to a superb sit-down dinner prepared by Chef Attila Csikesz and our St. Joseph volunteers, students from our 8th grade class at St. Joseph School helped us serve the dinner. They did the most incredible job and we just can’t thank them enough! We danced to DJ Bob Popolizio and took great pleasure in offering up Monsignor and Father Joseph in our Silent Auction. This event contributed a net of nearly \$7,000 to our Parish operating fund.

What’s next? Watch for details on our Family BINGO and Pizza Night coming in April.