

April 2009

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

Phone: 510/656-2364 Fax: 510/656-2438
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Building a People of Faith

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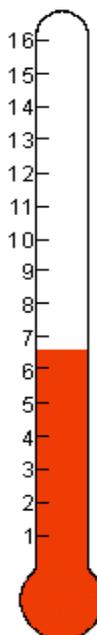
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Capital Campaign Corner

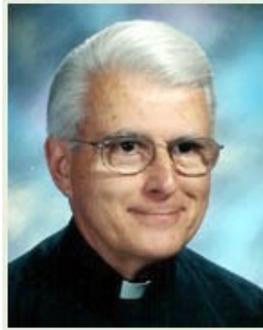
- Shortfall \$9,486,000
- Other Income \$700,000
 - Property Sales \$5,275,000
- 2nd Campaign \$2,439,000
- 1st Campaign \$4,100,000

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



Today we celebrate Palm Sunday and enter the holiest of all weeks, which culminates with the central feast of the whole liturgical year, Easter, the Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus. God's gift to us of Jesus and the New Covenant comes to fruition during Holy Week. Easter is therefore a time of celebration, joy and thanksgiving for the entire Church.

The Palm Sunday practice of blessing and distributing palm fronds ranks among the Church's most cherished sacramental practices. Together as a community we hold up palm fronds at the beginning of the Palm Sunday Mass and commemorate Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. To receive a blessed palm commits us to a new way of life, modeled on Jesus. Once the palm frond is placed in our hands, we enter into a pilgrimage with our brothers and sisters in faith. We journey together with Jesus towards the heavenly Jerusalem, the place where God welcomes all those who have done His will throughout the ages. Jesus' example, conveyed to us through the Gospels, shows us how to live our lives so as to do God's will.

The Church prepares us for our Easter journey through the season of Lent, with its emphasis on reflection, penitence and almsgiving. During the six weeks of the Lent, we reflect on what it means to be followers of Jesus, set aside those things that get in the way of leading Christian lives, and give to those in need through Project Ricebowl, the annual collection for Catholic Relief Services, our quarterly collection for St. Vincent de Paul and other almsgiving opportunities.

As the Easter people that God calls us to be, our responsibility is to follow the example of Jesus. We can never fully repay God for the Easter blessings He has bestowed on us, but we can go out and make a difference. Our parish community offers so many opportunities for us to do this. We can begin by giving just "one hour per week." We can give 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.

Let us make each moment count. Do we fully embrace all facets of our Sunday worship? Do we arrive on time? Do we truly welcome those around us? Do we wholeheartedly join into the songs and prayers? Do we stay for the entire Mass and not leave early?

We all possess unique gifts and talents. Do we share the best part of ourselves with God and His people? Are we generous with our time and talent? Are we active members of at least one parish ministry? Do we participate in parish activities? Do we lend a hand whenever we are able or do we sit back and watch others do it for us?

Are we financially responsible? Do we give God his rightful place in our budget or does He only get what is leftover, if anything at all? Do we give our fair share in the weekly plate collection to financially support our parish and its daily operations and ministries? Or are we still giving the same amount we gave ten years ago? Are we cheerful and generous contributors to second collections, mindful of our call to be almsgivers to those who are less fortunate?

Since our implementation of Electronic Funds Transfer, we are seeing a steady increase in participants. This is a huge step in the right direction because it gives us the ability to manage our financial affairs in a balanced and more predictable manner. Our goal is 100% participation and I thank those of you who are now participating in this method of contribution.

God has gifted each of us with Jesus and the New Covenant. We are commissioned to shine forth and bring what we have to His table. As we enter into this Holy Week, may we always be mindful of the Spirit within us and our call to serve God and His people. And may we look forward with great joy and anticipation to the day when we will be able to celebrate Easter in our new, permanent church.

Peace and love,

Father Manny

Monsignor Manuel Simas



View of worship space from rear plaza.

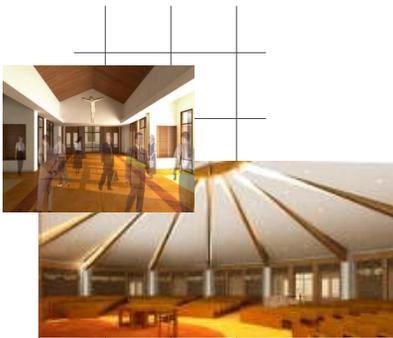
From the Coordinating Committee

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 Mirenda
- 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.

Why Do We Need A New Church? One Person's Thoughtful Reflection

I think a new Church facility is very much needed. Within the realm of our obligation as Catholics is to give as much as we can to the Truth in Christ and His Church. This would include showing proper reverence and love for our Lord within the Blessed Sacrament. Just the same as Christ revealed Himself to us in a physical sense, stays with us in the Eucharist in a physical sense, and died for us physically, we can see the importance of not only giving spiritually to the growth of our Parish, but physically giving to the Church that He established for us.

Our Diocesan mission is "To know Christ better and to make Him better known." How do we do this as a Parish? One sure way is to build a place of prayer and worship that truly lifts our spirits towards God. A place that when we come together to worship, we feel like we are in a church, not a "temporary" hall.

As many know, I am a die-hard Catholic. I love the Lord and wish to express that love as much as I can. If I had the ability to build the new church alone, I would. But I can't, for the same reason that others can't do this alone. This is why we need to band together, to help one other achieve the greatness that God created us for - utilizing our abilities - be it financial, spiritual, or physical. Everyone can do their part.

There is no reason to settle for our current worship space when we can do so much more for God and His Church. If people see a parish that shows how much love we have for our faith by building a place truly worthy of the Lord, then we will bear the fruits of our witness: Growth. Growth in truth, growth in grace, and growth in faith.

And we can rest assured that we have heeded the words of St. Peter who said, "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts" and "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope." (1 Peter 3:15) In part, we give this explanation in the manner in which we decide to worship. I hope and pray it is a manner of true growth and fidelity to the Truth of Christ and His Church. ~ Matthew Remlinger

What is the Master Plan for the Parish? Our Journey Through Time

In 1997 we celebrated the 200th anniversary of our founding by Franciscan priest Fermin Francisco de Lausen. In 1998 we began a master planning process, which culminated in May and June of 1999 with a series of open Town Hall meetings to receive input from parishioners. The outcome of these meetings was the parish master plan. Many of you have seen the model displayed in the church, which shows what the parish campus will look like when the master plan is completed.

The master plan is being implemented in phases as our financial resources permit. In the first phase, we purchased several acres of land to the east of the school from the Dominican sisters to allow for the expansion of our current campus. We also subdivided and sold land up the hill owned by the parish that was not suitable for parish use.

Over the last several years, we completed many required environmental studies, performed necessary archeological work to preserve and mitigate Ohlone Indian burial sites and other historic resources, completed the architectural design for the new church, obtained city approval of the preliminary site plan and general appearance of the new church, and relocated the rectory to prepare the way for church construction on the former rectory site.

The next phase of the master plan is to complete construction drawings, obtain building permits, and construct our new church. Included in this phase is the relocation of the road that divides the school and hall from the new church, construction of additional parking and a pick-up and drop-off area designed with safety in mind, and beautiful landscaping with an outdoor gathering space. Look for more information on the design of our new church in future editions of the TBC Times.

Once our new church is completed, the next phase of the master plan is renovation of the current hall and temporary worship space, built in 1965, into additional meeting and multi-purpose space. The final phase of the master plan is construction of a large multi-purpose building on the land purchased from the Dominicans. Envisioned for this new building is additional space for indoor athletics, a pre-school, and space for parish ministries. Also included in this phase are additional parking and a new ball field for the school.

The master plan provides a road map for the parish to follow that shows how each individual project fits into the bigger picture. The plan doesn't have an "expiration date." The master plan allows for flexibility on when each phase is completed, but the order in which each phase is completed is important because each phase builds upon the preceding phase.