

“Moving into the Future...”

As we get ready, as a Parish, to enjoy the summer breezes, and to slow our pace down a bit in preparation for a new full cycle of activities in September, I want to share with you a few things that have been in process for the last number of months and are now coming to fruition.

It is important to keep in mind that all of these decisions have been made after proper dialogue and consultation with the appropriate Councils – Pastoral, Finance, and Development. These pastoral decisions have the support of our Parish Leadership:

Sr. Maureen Brown, CSJ – Pastoral Associate

Sr. Maureen Brown, our Bereavement Facilitator, will be joining the Parish Staff, as our Pastoral Associate. Her ministry will be half time, for the present, consisting of 20 hours per week. She will continue in the ministry of walking with families at the time of the death of a loved one. She will also continue to minister to those families after the death and assist family members in their grieving process.

Sr. Maureen will also begin to invite Parishioners to become involved in the ministry of the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice and the Congregations for Civic Action, both organizations supported by the Office of Social Ministries of our Catholic Diocese of San Diego. Sr. Maureen begins this ministry among us as of July 1, 2004.

Mrs. Chris Smith – Director of the Office of Development

Chris Smith, our Stewardship Coordinator, will expand her present part time ministry to full time. Her new title is Director of the Office of Development. She will continue all her present responsibilities in regard to the Stewardship activities of our Parish, and will now also assist me in the implementation of our new Capital Campaign, “Our Journey Into the Future... Together.” This position will officially take effect on July 1, 2004.

It is important to note that as we begin our new Capital Campaign in November 2004, we are not procuring the services of a “fundraising” company. The new Capital Campaign will be “in-house” and will be directed by St. Thomas More Parish, overseen by the Director of Development, the Pastor, and our Parish Leadership. This will provide a significant savings to the Parish.

Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Office of Development

We presently are in the process of hiring a part time person who will be the Office of Development Administrative Assistant. This person will coordinate and oversee all of the donations/gifts to the Campaign and make sure that all gifts/donations are properly recorded, and recognized.

This person will also assist the Director of the Office of Development in the myriad of details of an “in-house” Capital Campaign and other related Parish Development activities. This position will take effect on July 1, 2004.

Town Hall Meetings

Please make your reservation to attend one of the upcoming Parish Town Hall Meetings!

The information on these meetings was mailed out in a letter to all registered parishioners, included in the STM Tower newsletter, and is also listed on page 5 of this bulletin. The purpose of these meetings is to share information with the Parish at large, and to seek its input, regarding present plans for the new Capital Campaign and the build out of our Parish Campus.

Parish Office Construction

Our present multi-purpose building is serving us as best as can be expected in light of the many demands on the building. Realizing that we will be in our present space for a minimum of 3 to 5 years more, the staff began sharing ideas about what could be done to assist parishioners and staff as we use the lower level together on an almost daily basis.

A wall, with a doorway, will be created between the office space and main gathering area on the lower level. This will allow parish organizations to use the lower level on a more regular basis without the concern of disturbing the work environment of the parish staff.

The parish library will be moved to the north side of the gathering area, and will be more accessible to parishioners because it will no longer be in the midst of the parish office. This move will also allow for one more office, with a bit of privacy, to be created.

Half of the cost of this project is being covered by a donation that I secured from a personal friend. Construction begins on Monday, June 7th, and will be completed in two weeks. Please “Pardon Our Dust” as you enter or use any of the facilities on the lower level in the next two weeks!

Feast of the Holy Trinity

(Jesus speaking to His disciples): “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you... whoever loves me will keep my word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.” (John 14:16-17, 23)