

“Repent, The Kingdom Of God Is At Hand”

As we continue our journey through the Season of Advent this weekend, we focus upon John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus.

The voice in the wilderness cries out: “Prepare the Way of the Lord.” In John, we see and hear a message of urgency and immediacy.

So often, as we make our journey of Faith, we become dulled and deadened to life around us. We “sleepwalk” through life, missing the presence of God in our midst, and we take for granted the love and care of family members and friends.

Advent is meant to be a time to shake and arouse us to God in our midst and life around us. Time is marching on! Unfortunately, we often lack that appreciation and only become aware when some event, usually tragic or difficult, shakes our foundations. And only then, do we look at God, others, and ourselves with a fresh set of eyes, the eyes of Faith.

During this Season of Advent, we, as a Faith Community, are reminded of our common vocation to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist and to prepare the way of the Lord, to remind the world around us that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

We do so through our activities and involvements in the community of life around us, specifically in the areas that we call home, Carlsbad, Oceanside, and Vista. We are to be a voice, and a beacon of light, that points to Jesus, and His healing message of love.

In a very physical way, even our Parish Campus becomes a symbol and reminder of what the future holds for each of us - eternity. When people see a Church, when they hear a bell toll, when they see a tower with a cross, they are instantly jarred into remembering that life on Earth is temporary. We have come from somewhere and we are going somewhere. With this faith perspective, we then, hopefully, live life in a kinder and gentler way; celebrating each day as a gift.

I would encourage us to keep in mind this symbolic importance of the Church we are building. It is not a monument to give us glory, but to give God glory and to be of assistance to God's people, those in our Faith Community, and all in our Civic Community, to live life more kindly and gently.

Our Capital Campaign, “Our Journey Into The Future...Together,” is going well. 230 Parish Households have so far made a commitment to this building project. We have a pledge/gift amount of \$2.1 million and with the \$1.2 million on hand when we began, we have a total of \$3.3 million.

Our total goal is \$12.4 million and we need to raise nearly \$8 million in order to secure a loan from the Diocese so that we can begin building.

This is a large undertaking, but very manageable! It is important, though, that every household sees this Campaign as a personal responsibility. The task does not belong to the “other family,” or “the other guy.” It belongs to each of us! God has placed each of us in this Community, at this time, for a specific reason. We are all called to be responsible to help build this Faith Community and its Campus so that it can be a voice for God, and a beacon of God's Hope, to the Community in which we live.

It is not only my desire and hope, but also my expectation, that each household support the Building Project. Each household cannot make an equal gift, but each household can make an equal sacrifice. That is what counts! It ultimately is not about the amount of the pledge/gift, but the spirit of sacrifice in which the pledge/gift is made. With a sacrificial spirit borne by all, we will easily succeed.

We still need to hear from 862 Parish Households. If you have not yet responded to “Our Journey Into the Future...Together,” please do so at your earliest convenience. All Parish Households will be contacted. Your assistance in coming forth will save our dedicated volunteers much time and effort.

You are a grateful people. You are a generous people. You are a faith-filled people. I know that you will respond in the manner that is needed!