

## Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak  
michaelsr@stmoside.org  
760-758-4100 x100

### \$5 Million – Ready...Set...Go!

Recently I met with Diocesan Personnel in regard to the building of our permanent Church.

We all agreed upon the fact that it would be advantageous for St. Thomas More to build during this present economic downturn, because construction costs have plummeted.

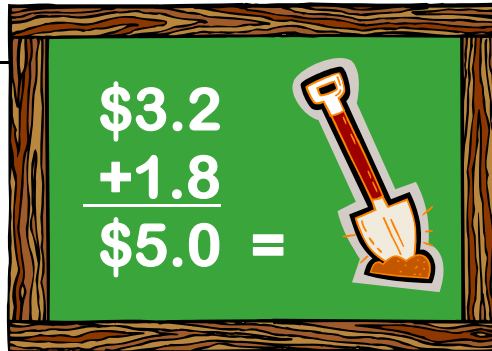
It is estimated that we could save up to \$1 million on our project if we could build in this present climate.

The Bishop is eager to help us achieve this goal. He is willing to exempt us from the 25% debt service ratio and would allow us to receive a new loan for the Church even if we still have not totally paid down our present debt. The remainder of that loan could be added to the new loan.

All hurdles have now been cleared for us except one. We need to have \$5 million on deposit with the Diocese. When we achieve that goal, we will be able to receive a loan for all that we will need to build our new Church and Daily Chapel.

Presently, we have almost \$3.2 million on deposit. So we need to raise \$1.8 million. This is the only hurdle we now have before us! We now have only one solid and tangible goal to achieve.

The sooner that we raise that money...the sooner we have the ability to take advantage of low construction costs...the sooner we build...the sooner will be settled in our new and permanent Worship Space.



In the coming weeks, as a Parish, we will be engaged in finding and creating ways in which can reach this \$1.8 million goal that will bring us to our final goal of \$5 million.

Chris Smith, our Director of Stewardship and Development, Bill Ipsen, the Chairperson of our Capital Campaign, "*Our Journey Into The Future . . . Together,*" and I have already begun discussion as to the ways in which we can move forward and engage our Parishioners in this timely opportunity and final challenge.

So for now, I desire your prayers; I seek your input; and, I ask you to open your minds and hearts to this immediate challenge that now lies before us.

Stay tuned! We are closer than ever.

### St. Thomas More ~ Pray for us!

*(As context for this article, I would encourage you to read, if you haven't already, my article in the latest edition of our Parish Newsletter, "The Tower." Go to [www.stmoside.org](http://www.stmoside.org) and click on "The Tower" Newsletter, then click on Volume VII, No.2—July 2009.)*

<http://www.stmoside.org/pdf/tower/STMTowerV7N2web.pdf>

*F. Mike*