

Pastor's Column

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This Is It!

This weekend, Bill Ipsen, our Capital Campaign Chairperson, is speaking before all the Masses to update us on the success of the ***Our Journey Into the Future . . . Together*** Campaign.

We are ending Phase I and beginning Phase II of the Campaign which will bring us to the actual construction of our permanent Church. **"This Is It!"**

All of the details, statistics, and specifics of Phase I and the projections for Phase II are in Bill's talk which is included in today's Bulletin. Please take time to read his talk and reflect upon all the information it contains. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Chris Smith, our Director of Stewardship and Development. We will be more than happy to answer any questions.

"This Is It!" We are now so close. The journey has been a long one. Some of you have been on part of the journey, some of you have been on the entire journey—almost 25 years—from Masses in your homes, to the mortuary, to a high school gym, to the storefront, and now to our 15-acre campus in our wonderful 22,500 square foot Parish Center.

For the last five years, in the midst of our continuing the mission and ministry of Jesus, we have focused, in a very concerted way, on the building of our permanent Church. We have made remarkable progress! **"This Is It!"**

We have overcome many obstacles, and have fulfilled many requirements. We have our architect, and we have the conceptual design of the Church. We have our liturgical consultant and we have, with the help of our Parish Interior Design Team, completed the liturgical program which is our road map that will be used for the design of the interior of the Church along with all the furnishings. **"This Is It!"**

We presently have \$3.2 million on deposit with the Diocese. The Diocese has taken notice of our efforts and has provided us with a golden opportunity. The debt/service ratio formula for securing a loan will not be used. If this requirement were to still be in place for us, it would be years before we would be able to build.

We will be able to consolidate any remaining present debt on our Parish Center into our new loan to build the Church. We will not have to pay off this loan before securing a new one.

Finally, we will be able to borrow all that we need to build out the Church fully, all at the same time—with the Daily Chapel and the Memorial Gardens.

We have only one requirement remaining—we need to have \$5 million on deposit with the Diocese. The Diocese is doing all that it can to help us to "seize the day" and build in this present economy. Estimates are that we could save up to \$1 million in construction costs. **"This Is It!"**

So we now begin Phase II of ***Our Journey Into the Future . . . Together***. **"This Is It!"**

Please take time to prayerfully reflect upon Bill's talk, and on all the materials that are on their way to your home via mail.

My prayer is that every Parish household will join this effort and will do what you are able through a new pledge or gift. We are already off to a great start with Phase II of ***Our Journey Into the Future . . . Together***, and raising this \$2 million in order to secure our loan will not be difficult. Together we will do it. **"This Is It!"**

Oh, by the way, did I tell you: **"This Is It!"**? Yes, **"This Is It!"**

Fr. Mike