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## Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 7, 2014

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### Pastor's Column

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

#### Prayer of Dedication

Special thanks to Bill Ipsen, the Finance Council Parish Liaison, who spoke before all the Masses this weekend to give us a financial update on our construction project.

Excitement continues to build as he shared with us our accomplishments and our challenges as we move forward to complete the building of our Church and Parish Offices.

I hope that all of you will take time to read and reflect on the transcript of his talk which is included as an insert in this week's bulletin.

In a few days, all Parishioners will receive a "love letter" from me asking that you consciously and prayerfully decide to make a three year commitment to our Operations Budget and the Mortgage/Building Completion Fund.

Your cooperation in this will greatly help the Finance Council in planning finances over the next three years!

As our dreams continue to become reality, I encourage you to pray for the success of our project. We must place all in God's hands.

I invite you to pray this Prayer of Dedication on a regular basis. It is the prayer that the Bishop will pray as the altar in our Church will be consecrated:

Father in heaven,  
source of holiness and true purpose,  
it is right that we praise and glorify your name.

For today we come before you  
to dedicate to your lasting service  
this house of prayer,  
this temple of worship,  
this home in which we are nourished  
by your word and your sacraments.

Here is reflected the mystery of the Church.

The Church is fruitful,  
made holy by the blood of Christ:  
a bride made radiant with his glory,  
a virgin splendid in the wholeness of her faith,  
a mother blessed through the power of the Spirit.

The Church is holy,  
your chosen vineyard:  
its branches envelop the world,  
its tendrils, carried on the tree of the cross,  
reach up to the kingdom of heaven.

The Church is favored,  
the dwelling place of God on earth:  
a temple built of living stones,  
founded on the apostles  
with Jesus Christ its cornerstone.

The Church is exalted,  
a city set on a mountain:

a beacon to the whole world,  
bright with the glory of the Lamb,  
and echoing the prayers of her saints.

Lord, send your Spirit from heaven  
to make this church an ever-holy place,  
and this altar a ready table for the sacrifice of Christ.

Here may the waters of baptism overwhelm the shame of sin;  
here may your people die to sin  
and live again through grace as your children.

Here may your children, gathered around your altar,  
celebrate the memorial of the Paschal Lamb,  
and be fed at the table of Christ's word and Christ's body.

Here may the prayer, the Church's banquet,  
resound through heaven and earth  
as a plea for the world's salvation.

Here may the poor find justice,  
the victims of oppression, true freedom.

From here may the whole world,  
clothed in the dignity of the children of God,  
enter with gladness your city of peace.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

*Fr. Mike*