

Please Pledge To Support The Building Fund!

by Fr. Tim Church

Every Sunday (sometimes every day) someone greets me who is anxious to compliment us on our new building. By God's grace we have constructed a church that is both beautiful and functional. Finally, we have some breathing room, and we have found it in a place in which we can experience the grace and beauty of God's presence.

It might be important to review how this was accomplished. We began in earnest over six years ago, when we diligently began paying off our existing debt. This amounted to about \$350,000, and took about eight months to pay off. A small group gathered to burn the mortgage on the existing buildings, but no one really knew for sure what lay ahead.

Our capital campaign began three years ago, and we raised \$2,200,000 in pledges. Even before that, we were saving funds from our operating income. Construction began in July of 2004. At its completion, the building cost \$8,800,000, and the parish contributed \$4,800,000 in cash to the project. We will convert our construction loan to permanent financing within the next few months, and payments on principal and interest will begin. Our mortgage payments will be \$32,000 per month.

The impact of the new building on our finances is significant. Our income has not grown at the pace we expected during the last year and, while we are not necessarily facing a crisis, we need to see a continuation in the building fund contributions in order to remain solvent. This will insure that we have funds to both operate our parish programs and pay our mortgage.

One of the advantages to contributing to our building fund is that the diocese affords us a discount on our financial assessment. 14% percent of our operating income goes to the diocese. Building Fund contributions are not assessed.

The future plans of our parish are already taking shape. Our program and mission plans are unfolding, and each Sunday Bulletin indicates steps being taken to continue to grow in our work. Building plans are also visible on the horizon. The columbarium, bell tower and adult education building will be underway just as soon as our finances allow.

Please use the pledge card in the pew to indicate your continuing support of our Building Fund. The future of our parish depends on our support. May God bless and prosper you for your continued faithfulness.