



Building a People of Faith

TO BUILD CHURCH
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

TBCTimes

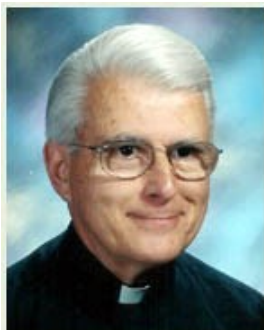
Saint Joseph Parish, Old Mission San Jose

January 2010

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What is Happening in Our Church? A Letter from Monsignor Manuel Simas



Greetings to you as we enter the New Year! May the Christmas season, which commemorates the blessed birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, bring a New Year of peace, hope and encouragement to all.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany this weekend, we read of the journey of the three wise men who fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy: "Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn" (Isaiah 60:3). The significance of their journey is more than just an ancient story told and re-told throughout the years. The Magi represented different cultures and races at a time in the world when such differences were more important than they are today.

Their journey to Bethlehem gives us a hint of the new prophecy that Jesus declares in Luke 13:29: "People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God." Jesus is telling us that the good news of the Gospel is for everyone. The diversity of our parish community is a blessing and gives evidence that this is true today.

Why did the Magi go in search of Jesus? They followed their intellectual and spiritual curiosity, and surely they were prompted by the Holy Spirit. They traveled long and far, a most difficult trek, and at the journey's end, they discovered nothing less than God.

Would we be so willing to follow the Holy Spirit's prompting in our own lives? The Magi came across something unexpected: the promised Messiah revealed as a baby in a manger. As another year begins, we all have our own idea of what the future will bring. How many times have we prayed for something and found that God had an answer that we had not imagined? Let us be open in the New Year to where the Spirit leads us.

As a parish and the Body of Christ, we bring the gift of ourselves to the Newborn King every time we gather to celebrate Mass. Are we offering our very best? Are we advancing our relationship with God and each other in faith and fellowship? Are we responding to the Gospel call of Jesus to build up God's kingdom here on earth?

Though Christmas Day has passed once again, let us remember that because of the Christmas miracle we have been given through Jesus' life many concrete, practical examples of how to live our daily lives. Our many parish ministries provide each of us an opportunity to follow His example and feed the hungry, clothe the poor, help the homeless, care for the ill, visit the lonely, serve each other and work for justice.

As we celebrate the beginning of the New Year and the Feast of the Epiphany, let us each make a personal New Year's resolution to make a gift of ourselves to God by our participation in at least one parish ministry in 2010. Let us put God first in our lives and generously give of our time and talents.

All that we have and all that we are comes from God. God's generosity will never be outdone. He has given us eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ and it is because of this magnificent Gift that we can be who we are called to be in His Church.

If, like the Magi, we are open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, God will be with us and guide us in this New Year of the Lord, 2010.

Peace and love,

Father Manny

Monsignor Manuel Simas

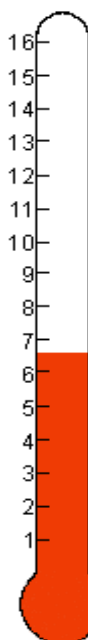
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Capital Campaign Corner

- Shortfall \$9,486,000
- Other Income \$700,000
 - Property Sales \$5,275,000
 - 2nd Campaign \$2,439,000
 - 1st Campaign \$4,100,000

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View of worship space from rear plaza.

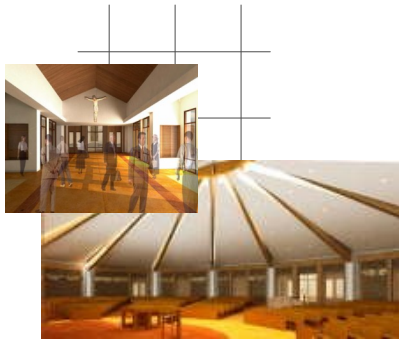
From the Coordinating Committee

Communication is a key element in the success of any group effort.

The Coordinating Committee will be issuing this newsletter as a regular insert into the bulletin and other church mailers to keep the parish at large informed on the progress of our project.

- Monsignor Manuel Simas
- Father Joseph Nguyen
- Ashley Weerpass
- Matthew Au
- Don Kaefer
- Lauri Kaefer
- Tony Miranda
- Jim Petersen
- Cris Raimundo
- Debbie Rossetto
- Bill Utic

Look for each issue of the TBC Times to give you the latest update on how we are doing, what we are doing, and what more is to come as we rebuild our church together.



Renderings of new church interiors:
 Top: Narthex before entering worship space.
 Above: Inside worship space looking from choir area.

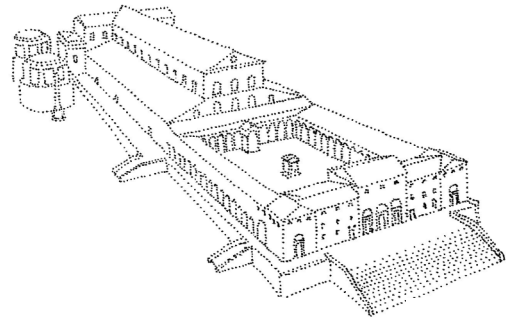
Environment for Catholic Worship

Part 1 The Living Church (continued)

Churches have long been understood as places of sanctuary or safety. In our own day, churches can be a second home for the households who come together each week to celebrate the Eucharist, and who come to mark the significant moments of the lives of each of its members.

This climate of hospitality makes it possible for the church to be a school where children and adults learn how to love one another. The respect and dignity shown to each person who crosses the threshold of the church—whether stranger or friend, young or old, able or disabled—is the same hospitality and openness that characterized Jesus’ ministry. The design of the entrance and the interior and exterior gathering spaces should be an expression of that hospitality.

Old St. Peter’s Church, built by the emperor Constantine in the 4th century. A fountain in the atrium provides a refreshing welcome to those arriving.

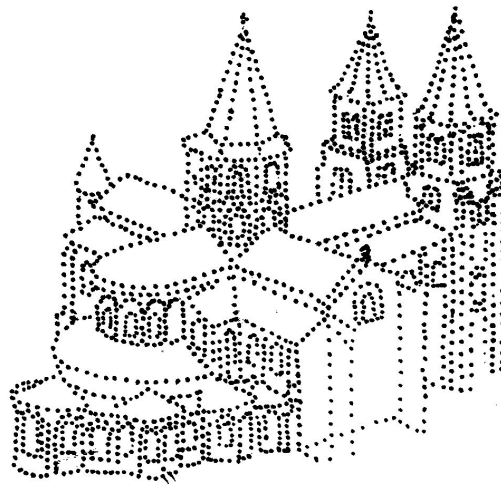


Just as the term *Church* refers to the *living temple*, God’s People, the term *church* also has been used to describe “the building in which the Christian community gathers to hear the word of God, to pray together, to receive the sacraments, and celebrate the Eucharist.”

Every church building is a gathering place for the assembly, a resting place, a place of encounter with God, as well as a point of departure on the Church’s unfinished journey toward the reign of God.

In the New Testament, the term *liturgy* is intimately connected with the proclamation of the Good News and with active charity. Through baptism and confirmation, Christians share in Christ’s priesthood which they exercise through their worship of God and their vocation of service to others.

At the Eucharist, Christ calls his members to conversion in the proclamation of the word; he invites them to join with him in offering his perfect sacrifice to the Father; and he sends them forth from liturgy to serve the community in charity.



The church building houses the community of the baptized as it gathers to celebrate the sacred liturgy. By its practical design and beauty it fosters the full, dignified and graceful celebration of these rites. The primary concern in the building or renovation of a space for worship must be its suitability for the celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgical rites of the Church. Consequently, the fundamental prerequisite for those engaged in the building or renovation of a church is familiarity with the rites to be celebrated there. [46]

...the building itself becomes “a sign of the pilgrim Church on earth and reflects the Church dwelling in heaven.”

Excerpts from *Built of Living Stones*

The material in this series is taken from *Built of Living Stones*. This document is based upon the following sources: *Book of Blessings*; Catechism of the Catholic Church; *Code of Canon Law*; *General Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass*; *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*; *Liturgical Music Today* (US Bishops Statement); *Music In Catholic Worship* (US Bishops Statement); *Notitiae* (Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments); *Order of Christian Funerals*; *Ordo Penitentiae* (Rite of Penance); *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation of the Easter Feasts*; *Rite of Dedication of a Church and an Altar*; and The Constitution on the Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.