



A Note from Fr. James

Dear Beloved Fellow Parishioners,

As we enter a new decade I am so grateful for our loving and vibrant faith community. Over the last decade we have seen tremendous growth in both the number of parishioners and also the number of ministries at our church. Our church is bursting at the seams and we need more space. As you know we are in the midst of our capital campaign: "Our Parish-Our Future " to add a new parish hall, meeting rooms and much needed additional space. The support to date has been very heart warming. The following are updates of the campaign from the key ministries.

Capital Campaign: Bill DeMucci

We kicked off the Campaign about a year ago with a week of receptions; premiered our campaign video and solicited your generous support. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$12,000,000. This amount includes one year of maintenance expense and renovation of the existing parish facilities. Many of you responded very generously and we are very pleased to report that as of this date we have pledges and contributions totaling 65% of our goal.

The second goal we set was to have as close to 100% participation from our parishioners as possible. To date we have 836 parishioners who have made sacrificial gifts. We encourage all of our fellow parishioners to join us in offering prayers for the successful outcome of the project and in joyfully making a sacrificial pledge to the campaign. All gifts, no matter the amount, are greatly appreciated.

During this season we are planning a number of events that will be informative and engaging and will reinforce why this building project is so needed at our parish. We will also be releasing a new video of this beautiful new building. Please keep a lookout in the bulletin, our website [www.stfrancislq.com](http://www.stfrancislq.com), your email and social media for information concerning upcoming events and status reports on our campaign.

Building Committee: Fred Saunders

We are progressing with our own building and construction plans. As a result of the need to meet emergency road requirements, we had to move the footprint of the planned building closer to Washington St. The new Access Road and Stop Lights plans of the project are very encouraging. The building of the road and installation of the stop light is the responsibility of our neighbors to the south. We have new, serious developers with the experience and resources to get the road planned and built. The results include a redesign of the road and a new Easement Agreement. The Agreement is being reviewed at the Diocese. This new access road will exit at the south end of our property by Lake Road.

These modifications to the building footprint resulted in a much better design of the parish hall building and administrative building. The building will provide for 10 meeting rooms, two divided being able to accommodate 50 to 75 people and eight rooms, accommodating 35 people each. The parish hall will be able to accommodate 470 people seated and a performance stage. We will now have buildings that will provide us with approximately 27,000 square feet of additional space and over 150 additional parking spaces. Newly updated landscaping and a contemplative garden area, all while maintaining our current budget.

Finance Council: From Bill Poland

The Finance Committee is very pleased to report that as of January 2020 836 Donors have made pledges to the campaign. Gross pledges total \$7,769,800. Of the total pledges made we have received cash of \$5,855,000. This is a great start and we ask that all those who have yet to pledge to prayerfully consider becoming part of this very exciting initiative.

From Our Pastor.

As we fast approach the Lenten season and are reminded to pray, fast and give alms, I ask everyone to join with me in adding your pledge as a practical and loving opportunity of Lenten grace. All sacrificial gifts, large or small are greatly appreciated and will give everyone the chance to leave a legacy by being part of this magnificent and much needed addition to our church.

Our patron Saint, St. Francis of Assisi, heard God's voice tell him to "Build My Church". With the help of his community he built the church of San Damiano with love and passion to serve our Lord and his people. I believe St. Francis is now nudging us, the Community of St. Francis, to help build up his Titular church here in our La Quinta home. I am convinced we will hear our beloved saint's call and will respond unhesitatingly with an open and generous heart. I am always moved by your loving response to God's call.

In Christ,



Fr. James