

PARISH PROFILE: Service-minded community turns 50

Continued from page 5

"You get to know people better that way, and you felt community," she said.

Liturgies invite participation

The Langens say their parish has been blessed over its half century with good homilists and strong liturgies that invite participation. Given that Our Lady of Guadalupe was founded in the early years of the Second Vatican Council, the parish has always had a strong liturgical tradition in the spirit of Vatican II, Father Walmsley said.

He noted that former pastor Father Jan Larson, a former liturgy director for the archdiocese, "did a lot of education on liturgy and getting people moving in the right direction ... And then every priest that came after [him] kept promoting that ... in good ways."

Father Walmsley and Borkowski also appreciate their community's mix of races, cultures and economics,

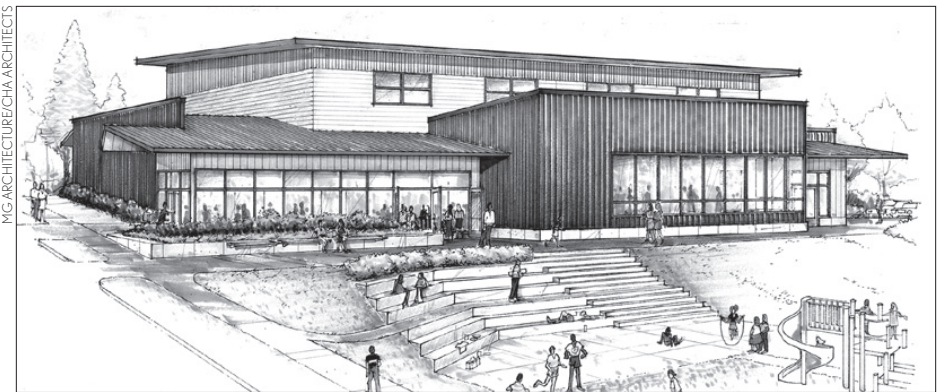
with Caucasians and parishioners of Filipino, Samoan and Vietnamese backgrounds making up the bulk of the parish demographics, joined by a few Hispanics, along with African immigrants from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Nigeria.

"We embrace a lot of different people ethnically and economically," Borkowski said, "and it builds a very strong community."

"It's a real mixture of ages," Father Walmsley said, adding that he's never been in a parish with so many single adults.

The church's location on 35th Avenue S.W. is noteworthy, the pastor said, because the roadway is a geographic divide between the poorer communities to the east and the more affluent communities overlooking Puget Sound to the west.

"We're right on what I call the



The parish hopes to break ground next year for its 10,000-square-foot Parish Life Center. It will provide a much-needed multipurpose facility housing a gym, gathering space and classroom area. To contribute to the Building for Our Future: The Next 50 Years Campaign, visit www.olgfuture.org.

neutral zone," he said, "so people don't feel like they're coming to one side or the other. They feel pretty welcome here."

The parish makeup has been bolstered in recent years by the renewal of the High Point area adjacent to the church, where low-income housing projects were razed and replaced by mixed-use housing. It has brought several dozen young families into the parish, and they've injected new life into the community, Father Walmsley said.

The parish boasts an active St. Vincent de Paul Society conference and the Knights of Columbus Father Richard Stohr Council 12175.

It's a "down-to-earth" parish where you "just feel really comfortable," said Norene Saldana, a Vincentian who with her husband, Jacob, has been a parishioner for some 30 years.

School a strength

Parish staff and parishioners point to the parish school, which opened in 1962 under the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, as one of the faith community's major strengths.

Currently near capacity, with 257

students, the school reflects the parish's social-economic diversity, said Kristin Dixon, in her 11th year as principal.

"It's a very service-minded parish, and we are very much reflective of that at the school," she said.

For instance, the free Over-65 Dinner, which draws 200 to 300 senior citizens from around West Seattle, is a service project sponsored by the fifth-grade class. Students do the serving and provide the entertainment, and parents and other parishioners do the cooking.

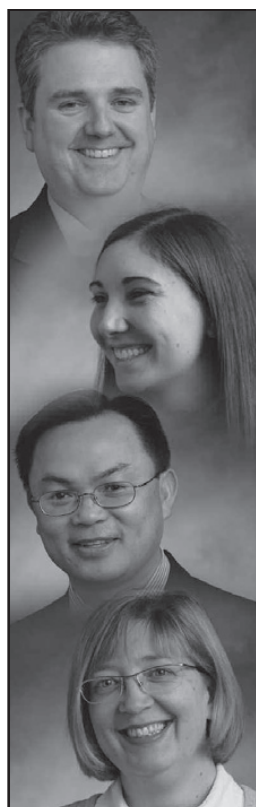
In another effort that integrates the parish and school communities, students each Advent hold a Shoebox Liturgy, in which they've decorated and filled shoeboxes with gifts for people in need. Like all the other service projects at the school, the idea is to follow the example of the poor Mexican Indian Juan Diego, to whom Our Lady of Guadalupe is said to have appeared.

Just as he was a "regular guy" who was asked to do "something pretty extraordinary," so too is the school community made up of "ordinary folks called to do extraordinary things," Dixon said.

The parish will stay busy in 2011. If enough funds are raised, ground will be broken next summer for the approximately \$4.1-million, 10,000-square-foot Parish Life Center. A multipurpose facility to be built on the north parking lot, it will feature a large gathering space, kitchen, classroom area and a gymnasium that will give the parish CYO teams a real home court for the first time.



This undated photo shows youths from the parish CYO depicting the Nativity.



Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry University of Portland

Deepen your theological knowledge.

Enhance your professional ministry.

Grow spiritually.

Build relationships with ministry professionals

This master's program is a three-year weekend model of graduate education. The program meets on the weekends: five weekends in both the Fall and Spring semesters and four weekends in the summer session. New cohort starts in late August.

Application deadline is July 1, 2011.

For more information see <http://www.up.edu/graduate/mapm> or contact Fr. Jeffrey Allison, C.S.C. at 503.943.8879 or allisonj@up.edu.

University
of Portland

Gosney "In Auburn Since 1956"
Motor
Parts Inc.
220 Auburn Way N.
(253) 833-4455



Auburn License Agency Inc.
124 Auburn Way N.
(253) 833-9696