

Project Saint Francis Update



As many of you know, we have been working on a project that we call Project Saint Francis, a special program that involves looking at how we use our facilities of the church, the school and our shared buildings to bring all of our communities together. I shared the first set of plans about the project earlier this year and I'm very excited to announce some of the key accomplishments that have taken place:

The Project Saint Francis Master Facilities Plan is complete. While smaller details are being reviewed and will be incorporated into the final detail plans, the overall plan includes:

- A. Build the new rectory and convert existing rectory into parish administration.
- B. Turn Father Roberts Hall into the Parish Life Center.
- C. Build a new school gym.
- D. Make key upgrades to the school, including adding new classrooms and demolishing the east wing.
- E. Creating a Church Plaza Entry.

1. We developed the first set of steps that we need to approach this complicated project, which includes many phases of smaller tasks.

2. We have visited other facilities and spoken with different Diocesan building campaign members to learn from others successes and opportunities.

3. We met with Bishop Robert of Santa Rosa, the Diocesan Building Committee and received approval for proceeding.

4. We have gained approval from the city to build the new priests residence.

5. We have put together teams that will help us work on many of the big projects- marketing, fundraising, building, facilities, finance experts, grant writers...it takes a village to work on a project of this magnitude. While we have a core team of fourteen people who have been supporting our efforts thus far, I encourage our parishioners to get involved in ways that I will describe later.

The Committees have prioritized the projects and recommend I move forward to tackle one of the smaller projects first, the Rectory.

There are many ways that you can help with this project. First, I need your support and prayers to drive our project to success. I also need energetic and committed people who want to see progress and who are willing to give of themselves for the benefit of the parish and the school. I'm happy to take a check for anyone looking to buy a gymnasium!

We have several different committees- all run by other volunteers- who could use a hand in various ways. Giving a few hours a month to the parish in this way will benefit many generations of parishioners and school children who will call Saint Francis Solano home.

I hope that you are as excited as I am about this project. I have received a lot of feedback from the parish, parents, students, teachers and neighbors. I ask for your time and talents as our campaign begins; the fundraising campaign is anticipated to begin in February.

If you have any questions please contact Fr. Mike at 996-6759 or Stefanie Shackelford, a parent and parishioner at (707) 695-9365 or Peter Gilligan also a parishioner at (707) 939-9756.

Thank you and God bless,
Let us prepare the way of the Lord,
Love and Prayers.

Fr. Mike , *Fr. Mike*

