

Church of St. Thomas More moves to new site

The Church of St. Thomas More, the Tri-City areas' newest Roman Catholic Parish, has moved into their newly constructed 22,500 square foot multi-purpose Parish Center at 1450 South Melrose Drive, in Oceanside.

The Parish Center is the first of an eventual 68,700 square foot Parish Complex planned for local Catholics.

Father Peter McGuine presided over his first Mass on August 2, 1995, as the second Pastor of the Church of Saint Thomas More. Since then, he's worked tirelessly with the Site Development Council and architects to finalize the Master Plan for the Church. The first phase, the Parish Center, is a two-story building designed for everything from worship to a place for meetings, dinners, temporary offices, classes and athletics. The main assembly hall is a high school-size basketball court which can accommodate 580 for Mass or 300 people at sit-down dinners.

The public is welcome to come and tour the newly



constructed Parish Center at an Open House on Saturday, June 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Entertainment will include young Irish dancers performing at various times of the day.

The future church complex, at Melrose and Cannon, Oceanside, will eventually include a 1,000-seat Sanctuary, Administration Building, Elementary School, Rectory, Bell Tower and a covered walkway surrounding the primary court and connecting various buildings. Parking on the hillside site will include spaces for 340 vehicles.

The current \$5.5 million project was designed by architects Austin Veum Robbins Parshalle in association with Renzo Zecchetto Architects of Santa Monica.

General Contractor is Rudolph and Sletten Contractors & Engineers of San Diego and San Francisco.

The Church of St. Thomas More had a humble beginning at a Carlsbad High School gym in 1985, with only a few in attendance. The parish has shown rapid growth over the past few years and now has approximately 950 registered households, a 17% increase over last year, according to Pastor Peter M. McGuine.

Mass celebrations for St. Thomas More Parish are held on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Tuesday to Friday at 8:15 a.m. For information about the parish, please call 760-758-4100 during business hours.