

# CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

A ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH IN THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO



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## Construction Process Of Our New Church Begins!

As the faith community of St. Thomas More celebrates our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year (yes, our Parish was founded by Fr. Bob White in September, 1985), we have received a birthday gift from Bishop Brom—"Preliminary Approval to begin the construction of our Church."

Ron Briseno, Chair of the Development Council, Don Eppich, Chair of the Finance Council, Randy Reznicek, Representative of the Pastoral Council, Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development, and I met with Bishop Brom and his Diocesan Officers on Tuesday, September 6.

We presented the plan that our Capital Campaign leadership has developed, based on present Capital Campaign income and its projections for the next several years. Our "fund line" will allow us to begin all the preliminary preparations now and, with the anticipated proceeds, will be able to secure our loan and begin the actual construction of the Church in 2008.

As we now begin the *many* necessary preliminary steps that are essential to such a large building project, we are mindful that we are operating under a "fund line" and not a "time line." If Capital Campaign

income increases more than our present projections demonstrate, it would be possible to begin construction sooner.

***The great news is that we are now under way! The building of St. Thomas More Church officially begins!***

We continue to pray that our God who has begun this good work in us will bring it to fulfillment.

—Rev. Michael Ratajczak  
Pastor



### THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS MORE IS TO:

#### WORSHIP GOD,

Mass Schedule: Saturday 5:00pm  
Sunday 8:30am & 10:30am  
Tuesday-Friday 8:15am  
Holydays Watch bulletin for details

Rite of Reconciliation (Confession):  
Saturday 4:00-4:30pm (or by appt)

Eucharistic Exposition: First Fridays 8:45am-8:30pm

Anointing of the Sick: Please call the Parish Office

Matrimony: Contact Parish Office a minimum of 9 months in advance

For further information, call Reverend Michael Ratajczak at 758-4100 x100

#### TEACH & LIVE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST,

Inquiry into the Catholic Faith: Bob Taylor at 630-4589  
Religious Education for Adults, Youth, & Children: Two times a month, September - May, Sunday or Monday  
Liturgy of the Word for Children: 8:30 and 10:30am Masses; Cathy Meyer at 598-7853  
Little Rock Scripture Study: Masako Streling at 295-2594  
High School Youth Ministry: Jeff & Gale Gibbons at 758-4100 x150  
Middle School Youth Ministry: Ron & Louise Briseno at 758-4100 x153

#### PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS:

Baptism (for infants): The baptismal process begins with an appointment with the Pastor.  
Baptism (7-14 yrs.)/RCIA: One to two year process with children and parents  
Baptism (adults)/RCIA: One to two year process, weekly sessions  
First Reconciliation: In home process begins in Level 1  
First Communion: In home process begins after first reconciliation  
Confirmation: Min. two year process of preparation; begins in high school

For further information, call Kathleen Bell at 758-4100 x110

#### AND SERVE HIS PEOPLE IN WORD & DEED.

Several groups serve the parishioners and provide outreach to the local community. Some of these are:  
Brother Benno's, Pro-Life, Blood Drive, Disability Facilitation, Bereavement Support, Communion to the Sick, AIDS Hospices, Senior Ministry, Women's Guild, Knights of Columbus, Parents & Tots, Golf Tournament, Widows & Widowers

For further information, call Chris Smith at 758-4100 x120

## “We Begin the Building of Our Church!”

Last weekend was a special moment in the history of our Faith Community, as it was announced that we are now focused upon the building of our Church. This building will be our Worship Space, our Sanctuary. It will be the permanent “House” of the Church of St. Thomas More. This sacred space is the sacred ground on which, and in which, we, the Church, gather to pray, to celebrate, and to receive the Sacraments that give us meaning, purpose, strength, and life, and that lead us from this earthly life to the next life, with God on high.



It has taken us 20 years to reach this point. Let us take comfort in the fact that the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years before they reached the Promised Land. We are doing it in half the time!! Always remember that good things take time. Also remember that so many of the Churches and Cathedrals around the world, both humble and grand, that were built before us, were generations in the making.

We now begin to do all the necessary preliminary steps essential to the building of any building. We will interview and retain an architect, various contractors, a liturgical consultant, be in constant consultation with our own Parish Committees, with the Diocesan Committees, and with the City of Oceanside obtaining all the necessary permits and approvals. The road ahead is long and arduous. But the journey will be joy-filled because we are aware of, and we can already get a foretaste, of what is to come.

My first plea to you today is that you continue to be as supportive and generous as you have been in the past. Please continue to be faithful to your pledges to the Capital Campaign, and please be willing to renew them when they are fulfilled. All of our financial projections in order to secure our Diocesan Loan depend upon your fidelity to your pledges.

My second plea to you today is that you continue to be as supportive as you can to the Operating Budget of our Parish. It is essential that we continue the ministries of our Church as we reach out to those in need, those who are in our Parish, and beyond.

Our Parish Leadership is not willing to compromise on the ministries that we now have established that truly allow us to continue the ministry of Jesus. We are already a Church! Church is people reaching out to one another in the name of Christ. We can do this in a “gymnasium” or in a “cathedral.”

We will not sacrifice ministries for buildings. It is ministries that make us a Church, not a Building. The buildings help us in our ministries and they are needed, but, ultimately, they are a means to an end, not an end in themselves.

Please be mindful that our Operating Budget has increased in the last two years, as our staffing needs have been adjusted so that the necessary ministries may take place. The staffing adjustments are as follows:

Sr. Maureen is our part-time Pastoral Associate who oversees the Bereavement/Funeral Ministry and is a liaison to several groups who help us to be involved in a variety of justice issues.

Karen Oshinski is our full-time Parish Secretary/ Receptionist who is available to the needs of all our parishioners and who oversees the calendaring of all our Parish Events and Spaces.

Natalie Provinse has become our Bookkeeper. This is the first time in our history that we have a staff person who is solely responsible for “keeping the books.” Natalie is part-time and as the Parish grows, her position too, will need to become full-time.

Lorraine Doering, our Parish Technician, is still part-time, but her hours have increased as the workload of our office has increased due to the addition of staff and expanded ministries. Lorraine is behind the scenes making sure that all the equipment is “up and running.” Also, whenever you see anything printed, you can be pretty sure that Lorraine has printed it.

Chris Smith is now our full-time Director of Stewardship and Development. She not only oversees the stewardship component of our Parish, but also, in the last year, has overseen our “Our Journey Into The Future... Together” that has raised over \$4.3 million in new money for our build-out. Janice Treat who has done so much of the secretarial work that has made our Capital Campaign such a success has assisted her in this past year and is available as the needs arise.

Douglas Lynn, who came to us in March of 2005, is not only our Director of Music, but also our Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries. Anyone who participates in any of the liturgical ministries knows how valuable his presence is among us.

Joe Garcia, our newest staff person, is our first full-time maintenance person. He is so needed in taking care of our multi-purpose building that is now four years old and in need of ever-greater maintenance and care as the years pass.

The staff that we have is the minimum that we need at this present time. We cannot sacrifice these positions, or the ministries of our Parish, in order to build a building.

We must, and we can, do both! We have done both in the past, and I know that we will rise to the challenges of this present moment.

What I ask is that every household make a pledge, if you have not yet done so, to the Capital Campaign, and that you be faithful to that pledge.

And I also ask that you continue to be as generous as you can to the Operational Expenses of the Parish. Please continue to support the Parish through the regular use of your envelopes. If you can increase your weekly donation, that would mean much to our Operational Budget this year as we continue to support the many ministries that make us the Church of St. Thomas More. We must meet the challenges of growth as they come to us each year!

Please know that I am grateful for all that you are and all that you do. You are a generous people. You are a faith-filled people.

May God who began this good work in us bring it to fulfillment!

*F. Mike*