



SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

A Continuation of Funding

I first set foot on this campus in May 1970 for my great aunt's funeral. I never considered that one day I would be back as the pastor. Yet twenty-nine years later, in the summer of 1999, I found myself in a friend's car packed with all my belongings driving up Crenshaw, once again looking for the driveway. As I stepped out of the car and the door closed behind me, I remember doing a 360-degree turn as I took in the familiarity of the campus, but with a new perspective. This would be my new home, and I was impressed. In fact I remember thinking to myself, "Thank God I don't have to do a building project here." God does have a good and timely sense of humor.

Our initial phase of funding, *Building Community – Celebrating Faith*, achieved extraordinary success raising \$15.5 million dollars from just over 50% of our active parish population. However, when we started this campaign we had estimates of the total project costs, but we did not have precise figures for two reasons:

1. We did not have complete architectural designs.
2. We had not put any of our projects out to bid.

Anyone who has done a remodel on their home knows that estimates can quickly change and with an economic recession, circumstances regarding funding can also change. Today we know how much this project will cost, and we also have some new and compulsory Archdiocesan requirements. The Archdiocese requires that we have 100% of the project pledged plus contingencies for overruns in construction, and reserves for unfulfilled or delinquent pledges. The costs of these contingencies and reserves, construction, and our commitment to Sagrado Corazon, total \$20.5 million dollars. Therefore, after much prayer and careful consideration, to fill the gap, and to ensure that we can successfully conclude the construction of our new Church and Parish Activity Center, **I am announcing a continuation campaign to raise the remaining \$5 million.**

In the past month a few volunteers and I have been quietly garnering support for this effort, and **I am pleased to inform you that we already have 32 new pledges totaling \$1,762,390!** I think this is an incredible level of support, but this parish belongs to all of us, so I encourage everyone to consider making a sacrificial pledge. We will be contacting everyone in the next few weeks, however, if you don't want to wait, please schedule a visit with me, or stop by the parish office to make your pledge.



"We're not just building a Church, we're building a Community."

- Msgr. Sork

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork



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A Perspective: Our Project & Religious Education

By Margaret Johnson – Coordinator of RE

For Religious Education families, the building project at St. John Fisher is sometimes a source of frustration. Along with everyone else in the parish, the difficulties of parking and traffic flow have complicated our lives. But the inconveniences we are currently experiencing are the first steps to a new vision of our parish as a community growing in faith and sharing in service.

Some parts of the vision are already in place. From my office window, I can watch children at play in the redesigned school courtyard. The courtyard is ideally set up for REPA Bar-B-Qs, and I notice many Religious Education parents find the play structure a wonderful place to wait with their little ones while their older children are in Religious Education classes. It is wonderful to see all the children of the parish enjoying this lovely, welcoming area.

Other parts of the vision are just beginning to come into focus. As the work continues on what will become a grassy area outside Barrett Hall, I can imagine using it for a variety of events. Little ones from the Religious Education Preschool program on Sunday mornings will be able to use the lawn for Easter Egg Hunts and other outdoor activities. I can picture the students in the Junior High Summer Sessions making use of this lawn area to perform skits

and share faith while appreciating the ways in which God is revealed through nature. Best of all, I can imagine members of the parish, from all age groups and backgrounds, celebrating significant events such as our upcoming 50th anniversary together on the parish lawn.

Our new church is central to our vision for the future in many ways. Although it will be larger than our current sanctuary, the design will bring us all closer together and closer to the altar. It is exciting to dream about planning First Communion celebrations in which every member of the congregation will be able to witness the children's joy as they approach the table of the Lord for the first time. The church's design will be enhanced by space for community gatherings outside the church and inside the Parish Activity Center. These areas will provide space for parish households to come together, enjoying community, sharing in service, and growing in faith together as God calls our parish to be a light to the world.



Considering an IRA Contribution?



GOOD NEWS FROM THE RECENT TAX LEGISLATION – for individuals over age 70 ½ who have an IRA forcing required minimum distributions that you do not need and do not want to pay income taxes on, your gifts (directly from the IRA) to St. John Fisher Parish qualify toward your required distribution, yet do not generate a tax liability. This option may not be right for everyone, so consult your tax advisor for the best way to maximize this excellent opportunity.