

Faith In Our Future
An Update for the Parishioners of St. Robert Parish
Have you noticed the construction?
October 9, 2009

A year ago many of our parishioners planned and participated in the Faith In Our Future campaign. That participation continues with new pledges being made and pledge payments being received every month.

Our goal was an ambitious \$2.1 million to accomplish the following initiatives in the following priority order:

1. Accessibility \$600,000
2. St. Jude School in Uganda \$50,000
3. Media Resource Center \$200,000
4. Carpeting for Sanctuary and Gathering Space \$40,000
5. Eucharistic Adoration Chapel \$10,000
6. Endowment for Religious Education \$100,000
7. Capitol Reserve Fund \$500,000

We celebrate that to date we have pledges totaling \$1,198,216. Remembering that a percentage of those dollars will be used for Archdiocesan initiatives, our parish will still receive over \$750,000. **Thank you for your generosity.**

With the funds pledged we knew we could complete the first two initiatives on our list and apply some funds to the third. So how is it possible that the media resource center renovations are complete and the majority of our accessibility plans (an elevator and two wheelchair lifts – one to the gym and one from Reilly Hall) will be completed shortly?

In the spring the parish received a generous estate gift from longtime parishioner, M. Phyllis Morris. A portion of the gift was specifically for the parish and a portion specifically for the school. Fr. Dennis deemed the gift “providential.” Would it allow us to embark on the building projects over the summer at a time when construction costs were reasonable given the current economic climate? The parish council said yes, and so the Morris Estate gift became a “loan” to the FIOF project fund.

It is important to note several things:

- As FIOF pledge payments are made over the next 2-4 years, those will be used to pay back the “loan” of the Morris Estate gift.
- Half of the media resource center is funded by FIOF gifts. The school also had several restricted donations to that project, an estate gift from George Pandl, a gift by the Home & School Association, and memorials from Anne Albrecht and Nancy Schulte. Thus there was enough money to complete the center now. (In fact, doing all of the building projects at the same time actually saved the parish money.)

Please plan to join your fellow parishioners as we celebrate the success of our Faith In Our Future campaign at the second annual **St. Nick Party on Friday, December 4th**. It promises to be fun for all ages again AND we will bless and dedicate the new elevator and wheelchair lifts. Everyone is welcome. Perhaps we will hold the party in Reilly Hall. It will be accessible via elevator!