

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER



GIFT



THE GIFT GOOD NEWS

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

WHERE WE ARE ON OUR FAITH JOURNEY

We began our GIFT journey over two years ago. After thousands of volunteer and staff hours, parishioner testimonials and the incredible outpouring of generosity from our parishioners, we today have achieved an incredible milestone along our journey.

To date, we have raised over \$4.5 million of our \$7 million goal from just over 1,300 families. This makes the GIFT campaign the largest and most successful fundraising effort undertaken at St. Francis.

While we are on our way to our goal, we still have over 70% of our families who have not yet made a pledge. It's not too late. If you have not yet pledged, please prayerfully consider making your pledge today and join us on this faith journey.

As we continue to raise and collect funds, I am pleased to announce that we are able to start the next phase of the project—The Building Phase. It is my pleasure to introduce Bill Laxton, head of the Building Committee who will lead us in the next phase of our GIFT journey.

I would like to send a special thank you to all the volunteers and staff who have been instrumental in the initial phase of the GIFT Campaign. Without your hard work, dedication and vision, this would not be a success. I am blessed to be part of this GIFT Campaign and look forward to seeing the project come to life.

Peace,

Peter Heffring, GIFT Campaign Chair

THE BUILDING PHASE BEGINS

I am pleased to share with you today an update on the status of the GIFT Campaign as we start the Building Phase of the project. Be sure to check the Pledge Wall area in the Commons and to visit www.stfrancisraleigh.org/GIFT throughout the year for all the latest building updates and plans.

Over the past three months, the Building Committee has been in the midst of Design Development for the GIFT Campaign project by working with the architects to make all the final preparations for the beginning of the Building Phase.

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THE BUILDING PHASE CONTINUED

Based on where we are today in relation to raising our goal, we will be able to build The Assisi Community Center; renovate Clare Hall; build the drop-off canopy, build The Our Lady of the Angels Chapel and undertake the first phase of the Early Childhood Learning Center expansion. Combined, this is a \$10 million project and is what we can build at this time.

As we raise more funds, we can build the Siena Lifelong Learning Center and the second phase of the Early Childhood Learning Center expansion. We will continue to monitor costs to see if we can begin elements of these two projects with the \$10 million we have. However, continued pledges are needed for us to reach our full goal and build the entire GIFT building plan.

In terms of the building schedule, starting this month through August, the Building Committee will review all construction documents and detailed cost estimates for the project. From September of this year to January 2009, we will be acquiring all the needed permits for the project, with a goal of receiving a final construction bid by March 2009.

FR. MARK'S BLESSINGS

I am continually amazed by the generosity of spirit and dedication to this parish on display every day by the parishioners I encounter at Mass and in ministry. The GIFT Campaign is a testament to the power of this spirit and dedication running through us.

I am especially thankful for all who have pledged, for the leadership of the leadership councils, for the GIFT Committee, the Building Committee, the pastoral staff and the amazing volunteers who have brought this campaign to life. Yet, we are not finished and there is still much work to do.

As we prepare to undertake the Building Phase of the campaign, I feel it is important to reach out especially to those 70% of our parish families who have not yet pledged. Our goal is attainable, but

Construction will begin in April 2009 and will be scheduled to be completed by April 2010. All the furniture, telecommunications and other final touches on the interior of the buildings will be completed in the summer months of 2010. The Grand Opening is scheduled for September/October 2010.

Many volunteer and staff hours, along with the incredible generosity of our parishioners, have gone into getting us to where we are today. I am grateful to all who have given so generously of their time, talent and treasure in making the GIFT Campaign a reality.

Peace,

Bill Laxton, Building Committee Chair

BUILDING SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

MAY TO AUG 2008	ESTIMATE REVIEW
SEPT 2008 TO JAN 2009	PERMITTING
MAR 2009	FINAL BID
APR 2009	CONSTRUCTION BEGINS
APR 2010	CONSTRUCTION ENDS
SUMMER 2010	OUTFITTING
OCT 2010	GRAND OPENING

only if every household participates. If we are going to build all that was envisioned in the original GIFT Campaign vision, then full pledge participation is required.

It is not too late and I ask that you prayerfully consider your contribution to the GIFT campaign and join us on this faith journey. You will be investing in the future of our parish and our faithfulness in fulfilling the mission of St. Francis of Assisi.

God's blessings to you always,

Fr. Mark



SENIOR CENTER REFLECTIONS

We are really looking forward to the new Senior Center. It will give us a place for our regular get-togethers each month and accommodate our growing population of seniors. Our Senior Club can use the center for meetings and special events. It will be nice to have a place to just 'drop-in' for a cup of coffee and fellowship any day.

The Center is designed to accommodate the handicapped and will be a great place for talks and programs with good sound and lighting. The adjacent Lounge will be a really nice spot for socializing any time and for coffee and goodies after daily mass.

The Senior Center should be a place not only for regular and special events for Seniors, but a friendly place where we can gather informally or just drop-in for coffee and conversation. Most of all it needs to be comfortable, warm, and friendly.

Judy and Jim Barton

Community Center Elevation



YOUTH CENTER REFLECTIONS

As we get a new Youth Room, I hope that it is memorable, homey and all remember that this is a place we can gather. This is a room where many memories of shared faith and understanding of our important place in the church will be made. Remember that the youth years shape our future and the good times will always stay with us. And so as the room I am sitting in now holds memories, I hope the new room will hold as many good memories or more.

Jennifer Quirk

Community Center Floor Plan



OUR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

We are on our way to our goal, but we are not there yet. If you have not yet pledged, please prayerfully consider doing so. Only together can the GIFT Campaign vision can be achieved.

	GOAL	PLEGDED	RECEIVED
PARISH SAVINGS:	\$ 2 MILLION	\$ 2 MILLION	\$.6 MILLION
PLEDGES:	\$ 7 MILLION	\$ 4.5 MILLION	\$ 2.1 MILLION
DIOCESE LOAN:	\$ 4 MILLION	\$ 4 MILLION	\$ 4 MILLION
TOTAL AS OF MAY 2008:	\$ 13 MILLION	\$ 10.5 MILLION	\$ 6.7 MILLION

ST. FRANCIS WEB SITE REDESIGN

Please visit our newly redesigned Web site, www.stfrancisraleigh.org. The site has been redesigned to contain lots of new information, frequently updated news and events and to make information easier to find. Be sure to visit the GIFT Campaign section, www.stfrancisraleigh.org/GIFT for all the latest GIFT Campaign updates, photos and information.

