

Building In The Spirit



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Campaign Update

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN NEARS FIRST GOAL!

The status of the Building in the Spirit Campaign can best be likened to the swan on the pond – it seems to be gliding with ease but, under the water it's paddling like crazy!

The first campaign pledge goal of \$3,000,000.00 has almost been achieved with \$2,985,550.36 pledged to date, thanks to an additional and timely family pledge as well as a generous commitment made by Archbishop Thomas Rodi on behalf of the Archdiocese of Mobile.

During the past several months, much work has been done in preparation for the anticipated start of construction tentatively scheduled for mid to late 2010. As outlined in our campaign goals the construction of Phase One will require financing over and above campaign revenues.

Much of the continued work will be guided by a steering committee, consisting of the Chair of the Pastoral Council, John Jacobs, the Chair of the Building Committee, Brant Hill, the Chair of the Finance Committee, Paul McTear, the Chair of the Building in the Spirit Campaign, Barbara Rosser and our Pastor, Fr. Troncale. The purpose of this group is to form a cohesive effort as we move towards the goal of construction of the Phase One, the multi-use Education Center.

On November 3rd, the steering committee met with members of the Building in the Spirit team and reported the following:

Chair of the Finance Council, Paul McTear:

- 1) Initial contacts have been made at the Archdiocesan level, to determine the procedures necessary to obtain permission to begin construction
- 2) Several local banks have been contacted concerning financing the project. Favorable responses were received.
- 3) With conservative sensitivity the committee is now working to determine what debt load the Parish can reasonably sustain.
- 4) The committee reported that tithing revenues have remained steady during the past year.
- 5) The current thinking of the committee is a cautious leaning toward borrowing sufficient funds to allow Phase One to be constructed.
- 6) Some portions of the current savings are to be held in reserve for non-building project items.

The Chair of the Building Committee, Brant Hill:

- 1) A working set of plans is approximately 30% complete.
- 2) The current construction climate is favorable relative to both the costs and availability of construction labor. Raw material costs are also improving.
- 3) Upon a determination of the total funds available by the Finance committee, finalization of a set of working construction plans will be undertaken.
- 4) It is hoped that via a soft bidding process that a preliminary indication of costs of the project can be known.

- 5) At the same time considerations are being given to the selection of a general contractor.
- 6) The impact of The City requirements for the new entrance is being evaluated.
- 7) A number of cost conservation ideas are being explored to reduce expenditures and still maintain the integrity of the project. These include such things as finishing materials, and roof types.
- 8) The effect of in kind donations by various Parishioners is being reviewed as to the dollar impact that such donations will have on the final project costs.

The Building in the Spirit Committee is exploring a number of avenues to produce additional revenue that will reduce the amount of indebtedness that the Parish must undertake. Encouraging responses have been received from at least one foundation and other creative and innovative ideas are being pursued.

“I join with everyone who is amazed that the people of Holy Spirit parish are just shy of \$3 million in pledges and donations in a recessionary year,” Father Troncale added, “but, we haven’t reached that goal yet. So, we need everyone who hasn’t made a pledge or donation to do so now.”

The work goes on, and the swan continues to paddle as we move closer to our goal of providing for the future needs of a growing Catholic community and a growing Holy Spirit Parish. Your continued support is much needed and much appreciated. Perhaps it will be your gift which will finally get us over the top.

Continued pledges or other gifts are gratefully accepted. Please contact any member of the Building in the Spirit Committee or call the church office at 277-5631 and a member of the committee will gladly contact you.

Respectfully submitted by Nap Barranco and Jeff Rosser of the Building in the Spirit Committee