



St. Bonaventure Parish

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Like living stones, let us be built into a spiritual house.

August 4, 2017

Dear Parishioner,

New Statues:

Pablo Eduardo, the renowned artist who created the magnificent figure of Christ Crucified for our new church, is now working on two new statues for our parish. I am very excited about these new works of devotional art but will need your help to make them a reality.

The new statues will be unique to our parish and meet the highest of artistic standards. The statues will be inspiring additions to the nave of our church, aid in our prayer and enhance our understanding of the communion of saints. If you have ever wondered why the walls of the nave cut away on each side of the church to a paneled wall, topped with bronze scroll work and small spotlights, then wonder no more! These spaces were deliberately designed to house life-sized statues. In most churches, devotional statues are located “up front” in the sanctuary or in special side chapels. In our church, the statues will be placed within the assembly. Certainly, the saints pray for us but they also pray with us to the praise and glory of God. The placement of the statues so near to the pews will express this truth.

St. Bonaventure:

One of the new statues will be of our patron, St. Bonaventure. In his day, St Bonaventure was a Franciscan friar who eventually became the head of his order. He was a renowned scholar who became the Bishop of Albano and a Cardinal of the Church. St. Bonaventure died in 1274 while participating in the historic Council of Lyon. But when was he born? The exact year is disputed but some scholars say 1218, which means that next year will be the 800th anniversary of the birth of our patron. With your help, his statue will be unveiled in time for his feast day, July 15, 2018.

Mother of Divine Hope:

The other new statue for our church will be of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title, Mother of Divine Hope. Jesus is our Divine Hope but Mary, most blessed of all women, was chosen to be the mother of that Hope. There is no human being closer to Jesus than Mary. She had a singular share in his birth, his life, his suffering, his death and his resurrection. There can be no greater saint to intercede on our behalf or to plead our cause before the throne of her Divine Son. The statue of Mary will be approachable, invite us to pray from our hearts and seek consolation in her Son. Again, with your help, her statue will be unveiled less than twelve months from now.

The total cost of these statues, inclusive of their pedestals, is about \$200,000. That's a lot of money for any one person but if everyone in the parish pulls together and donates in accord with their own financial circumstances, we will surely achieve our goal.

Here's what I'm asking:

A) If you donated to the Capital Campaign for our new church:

If you find yourself in this category of people, please consider giving a gift equal to 10% of your total pledge for the new church. In other words, if you gave \$50,000 for the new church, please consider giving \$5,000 for the new statues. If you gave \$5,000 for the new church, please consider giving \$500 for the new statues. If you gave \$500 for the new church, please consider giving \$50 for the new statues.

B) If you donated to the Capital Campaign for the new church but are still paying your pledge:

If you find yourself in this category of people, I simply ask that you remain faithful to your original pledge. Many of the families in this category didn't give the largest gifts to the capital campaign but are among those who donated most sacrificially. I am not asking you to do more. Your continued commitment to your original pledge will provide up to \$50,000 of the funds needed for the new statues.

C) If you did not donate to the Capital Campaign for the new church:

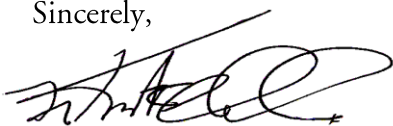
If you find yourself in this category, I am asking you to make a pledge comparable to the gifts given by your fellow parishioners during construction of the new church. Many new families have moved into the parish since the church was dedicated. Others who were unable to give during the recession now find themselves in much better financial circumstances. I am not asking you to impoverish yourself but to give what you can with an eye toward the burden that others have carried. In the original Capital Campaign, 801 families donated over \$4,000,000 to make our new church a reality. The donations ranged from \$5 to \$305,000 and the average donation was over \$5,000 per family. Everyone pulled together and did what they could do for the parish. Please consider doing the same.

You make the difference:

Every parish operates on the generosity of its parishioners and financial concerns are always a reality of parish life. Nevertheless, I am very sympathetic to the changing circumstances in which parishioners find themselves. Some who gave in the past can no longer do so but others who couldn't help before are able to do so now. I only ask you to do what you can. Remember, I care more about you, your active participation in the sacramental life of the Church, your life of prayer and your relationship with Jesus than I care about with how much money you can donate.

May our Blessed Mother sustain us in our hope and increase our confidence that the promises of her Son will be fulfilled. May St. Bonaventure teach us true wisdom and help us to grow in the ways of Christ. May God bless you and your family, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sincerely,



Rev. Kenneth C. Overbeck
Pastor