

# **“Recapture the Dream”**

## ***Capital Campaign Update***



Although summer is the usual time to kick back and relax, the Parish Staff and I have been very busy about many things: the usual parish ministries and every-day business concerns of our 2700 family Christian Community; the upcoming new academic year for our High School, Elementary School and Religious Formation Program; the liturgical plans for another years of grace, keeping in mind that - this year – Easter

comes very early; the search for a new parish organist, due to the resignation of Doug Duca, effective July 31, who has faithfully and quite beautifully lead sacred music for two years at church and taught in our schools. The Search Committee is presently interviewing candidates. My gratitude and thanks to Dr. Joe DeFazio, chairperson, Mary Lanni, Debbie Moran, Ray Mazzeo, Carol Resch, Linda Verdino and Michele Zimmerman who have graciously given of their time and talent to select our next Director of Sacred Music.

In my 2006 Christmas letter to all registered parishioners, I promised to keep you abreast of the progress of our “Recapture the Dream” Capital Campaign and Building Project. It is still my hope that much of it will be completed by our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2009. So far, here’s what has been accomplished so far, what is currently in process, and what is still in the planning stage:

+ The high school classes that had been meeting beneath the church have been relocated to the Elementary School building; this will enable us to begin constructing our new Parish Center, which will be located beneath the church and will be assessable by the new elevator which will connect the parking lot level with the church level and the basement level; it

will house the offices that are currently in the priest’s residence: the offices for the priests, administrative assistant, secretaries, bookkeeper, etc., and will provide space for new offices for our deacons, music minister, and lay staff; this new center will also be the site of much of our parish’s life: the Altar Rosary Society, RCIA, Music Ministry, social gatherings, workshops, adult faith formation, etc.

+ Suspended ceilings, energy efficient light fixtures, air-conditioning and fans have been added to 2 high school and 3 elementary school classrooms

+ The Dominican Plaza outside the High School entrance is complete; the High School front entrance was power washed and stairs re-caulked; wrought iron fencing will be added to the high school property, and new auditorium doors will be installed

+ The Elementary School cafeteria has a new surround-sound, state-of-the-art video system installed, capable of broadcasting in High Definition as well as a new amplifier system; this has already been put to good use by our summer Religious Formation program and other summer groups; a new fire suppressant sprinklers is presently being added to the entire basement as we continue to bring our old buildings up to current safety and security standards – a very costly project – yet very necessary for the wellbeing of the many people of all ages who uses our buildings. When the Elementary basement is complete, we will begin the same process in the high school basement.

+ The Building Committee and Campaign Committee are being formed; architectural proposals have been formulated; we have hired Kevin Lynch of Lynch Associates to conduct the Capital Campaign; Tom Clare has graciously agreed to be the General Chairperson of the Capital Campaign, and Steve Cuccinelli has agreed to work with individual donors. Dennis Letsche will be the liason between the committee and the high school. We need many more people to make our project a success.

+ The Convent. Since I did not want to lose the ministerial presence of the Dominican Sisters who have served this parish since 1916, I offered to buy a house in town for the four Sisters who presently live in our convent; it would have been the fourth convent relocation in our parish history. The Sisters and I were thrilled with this prospect; however, when this idea was presented to the Prioress, Sister Arlene Anctzak [formerly called the Mother Superior] she had other ideas. However, after she met with our four resident Sisters, they jointly decided because of their ages, it would be best for them to relocate nearer to their Mother House and reside on Dominican property. Here is what they have decided to do:

Three of the Sisters: Sister Ines, Sister Marietta and Sister Ann Monica will relocate to Lacordaire in Upper Montclair; Sister Mary Immaculate will reside in the Mother House in Caldwell where she will be responsible for all of the music, since Sister is very talented on the piano. Fortunately for us, Sister Ines is still going to continue in her role of assisting Mary Lanni with the RCIA Process, along with Adult Education and the Confirmation program. Sister Marietta will continue to assist Dr. Bob Berckes, principal of the high school, in the School Office. On a personal note, I am happy that the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell will still have a presence in our parish since I first came into contact with these wonderful, dedicated women of God when I entered Kindergarten at St. Paul the Apostle, Irvington, where the Sisters built upon the faith foundation that my parents first instilled in me, teaching me to love God and neighbor.

Here are the new addresses for the Sisters so you can update your mailing addresses:

Sister Ines, Sister Marietta and Sister Ann Monica:

Lacordaire Academy  
155 Lorraine Ave.  
Montclair Twp, NJ 07043

Sister Mary Immaculate:

Dominican Sisters Motherhouse

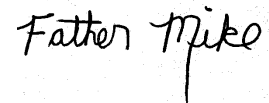
1 Ryerson Avenue

Caldwell, NJ 07006

The convent is slated to be razed; all parish property in the convent will be used for parish purposes;

The Rectory. Due to roof and structural damage too costly to repair, dangerous mold on many interior walls, many leaks, and the need for more parking spaces contiguous with our current parking lots, the rectory will be demolished. The new kitchen to be built in the current church basement has been carefully designed so that most of the present rectory kitchen cabinetry and equipment will be transported from the rectory to the new parish center; all that is salvageable from the rectory will be used in the new rectory and/or the parish center: i.e., light fixtures, window treatments, furniture, decorations, etc.; I know this is a disappointment to those who were hoping to acquire new treasures from both the rectory and convent – but I can assure you: no parish property will be given away; most of it will be used elsewhere – or sold at market price.

With God's love and my prayers,



Rev. Michael J. Kreder

Pastor