

Saint James Catholic Church *Campaign Newsletter*

As we begin the Lord's work and commence Opening Our Doors & Hearts to the Future campaign, we want to answer some of the most pertinent questions that may be asked.

Q: What are the financial needs of the Campaign?

A: The financial needs call for raising a minimum of \$2,000,000 in gifts and pledges over a five-year period. This amount was established from the results of the Planning Study and In-Pew Survey as being a realistic goal at this point in time. We have created a challenge goal of \$3,000,000 and any funds raised beyond what's required for Phase I will be put into a parish savings account. Such additional funds will be used to cover ongoing maintenance and operations or to develop other facets of the Master Plan.

Q: What will be covered in Phase I of the Master Plan?

A: The \$ 2 million raised will be used to remodel and enlarge the sanctuary, create additional meeting spaces and prepare for the time we add grades 6th through 8th to our parish school.

Q: Why do we need to increase the size of the sanctuary?

A: We currently have only 380 seats and many of the weekend Masses are full. As McMinnville is growing, we need to encourage and embrace the Catholic community to attend Saint James. Besides being larger, our remodeled sanctuary will be more traditional with the removal of the inverted vault. There are 2 priests to cover the current 8 weekend masses at St. James and San Martin. They are spread too thin time wise and geographically to effectively administer the needs of a very diverse parish. It is anticipated that an enlarged sanctuary at Saint James and the closing of San Martin will allow for the reduction of the number of weekend masses to 5. This will give the priests both the time and opportunity to concentrate their efforts in a more productive fashion.

Q: Why do we need more meeting space?

A: With 51 ministries and one official meeting space, some organizations are forced to meet in private homes away from the church. Phase I will provide at least 4 new meeting spaces and greatly ease the burden on our expanding community outreach programs.

Q: Why do we need to add grades 6 through 8 to Saint James School?

A: An extensive study which commenced in 2005 showed that there was a desire among young families in the area to see Saint James School expand through the 8th grade. However, such expansion will take place one grade at a time and only when the expansion is economically viable. Until that occurs, the future classrooms will be used as meeting rooms.

Q: Why are we starting a campaign in such uncertain economic times?

A: We have already waited (due to the bankruptcy) beyond the point where the parish ministries have been adversely affected; and the current sanctuary is over capacity considering the load on two priests as described above. Gifts and pledges will be made according to one's abilities and we chose a five year payment plan to alleviate the financial burden and get the campaign going now.

Iglesia de St. James
Boletín de la Campana