

Good Morning.

37 years ago, I entered through the doors of this building with my parents, Norman and Rosemary Deeb, and my brother, Mark, to celebrate the dedication of our church and to participate in the first Mass. I began a faith journey that brings me to speaking to you today.

As you can imagine, this altar, this building and these grounds are very special to me. My three children, Nina, Lexie and John, were baptized, confirmed and received First Communion here. I was married here, buried my parents from here and have served as a eucharistic minister and usher for 25 years. We have celebrated all the Holy days right here. This Church holds special sentimental meaning to me. I know many of you have shared special occasions with your families here at Holy Spirit Church over the years.

A couple of years ago, when I learned of our plan to move to a new location, it hit me like a brick falling out of the sky. I couldn't believe it. I was initially opposed. All the wonderful memories which occurred at this location would be gone. Then, I began a new faith journey and realized that I would take the memories with me wherever we went. I began to listen to the reasons for our move.

One day, about 3 years ago, I received a tap on my shoulder in the form of a letter from Father Jerry to serve on Parish Council. I had already served from 1992 until 1995 and wondered why. However, I have a hard time saying no to my church so I went to the first meeting to discern whether I belonged on Council again. Several months later, I found myself on council serving as chair.

The past Parish Council bequeathed to the new Council the road map and plan from Torch to sell this property and move to Parkside. I began to listen and learn, with faith. I began a conversion. Just like Zacchaeus in the gospel reading today. I climbed up the

tree and went out on a limb. I began to understand that this move and this growth was necessary for the future of our church.

Then came a divisive issue. Torch appeared before Parish Council this spring and indicated we did not have enough money to build both the church and the social hall, offices and educational hall at the same time. We were requested to discern whether to first build under Plan B, the social hall, offices and educational hall, or Plan A, the church. At this Council meeting, we spent over 4 grueling hours trying to discern which would be best for our church community. We could not reach a decision. We addressed the issue again at the next Council meeting and, after another 4 hours, finally came to the decision to accept Torch's recommendation to proceed with Plan B, building the social hall, offices and educational hall first, and the church later, when money became available. We were truly torn apart but our faith carried us through this decision.

Then, as if a miracle had occurred, God stepped in and laid his hand on the process of moving to Parkside. The very next month after our Council decision, Living Hope expressed an interest to purchase our church, years before the road map called for its sale. What an opportunity. Then, I found myself on the negotiating team to sell the church property – the same person who was against moving in the first place. Then, I found myself before the Priest Council and Bishop McRaith to approve a contract we wished to enter into with Living Hope. So, as you can see, my conversion led me to becoming very active in this whole process.

And now, I truly believe it is in the best interest of our church, both past, present and future parishioners, for this transition to take place. It is meant to be and our faith will carry us. However, our faith will not pay for the brick and mortar.

This new, great opportunity with Living Hope, couldn't have come at a better time. Here's why....Torch has estimated it will cost approximately \$11,000,000.00 to build the

church, social hall, offices and educational hall. We sold the Westen property for \$550,000.00. We have a contract for the sale of this property for \$4,750,000.00. Our land at Parkside is paid in full due to the generosity of our church community in the first capital campaign in which we raised \$1,200,000.00. In effect, we need to pledge approximately \$5,500,000.00 during this capital campaign in order to build all four buildings. Spirit One kicked off last Sunday with a minimum goal of \$2,500,000.00. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we exceeded that goal and wouldn't need to have a second capital campaign to raise money to build the church.

Your generosity will determine when the church can be built. We plan to break ground next year on the construction for the social hall, offices and educational hall. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could plan the groundbreaking for the church very shortly thereafter? Your generosity is the key.

You can rest assured that your Council, Torch, staff and all leadership would love nothing more than to build all four facilities at the same time. We earnestly request you to empower leaders of our church to build all four buildings as soon as possible with your generous contributions to the capital campaign.

It is typically very dangerous to give a lawyer a microphone with a captive audience. While trying to be mindful of your time, I wanted to make you aware that the progress for construction of our facilities at Parkside is dependent upon your generosity. So, may it please the Good Lord that we find it in our hearts to make a sacrificial faith-filled commitment to the capital campaign. God Bless You.

Thank you.