

Thank you Father

“Our Journey to Parkside” continued. Talk number six. The last time I talked was on January 11th just after we started the foundations for Spirit I. We are now extremely busy! And I am very excited! I want you to know that most everything that's been accomplished has become a blessing. Your support and prayers have made Parkside literally a walk in the park. You can't possibly know how well everything is proceeding, except for the recent lousy rainy weather, which has slowed us down a bit. I am looking for Father to step up and do something about that. I think you will find, as I have, that this is truly the Lords work and the Project Team are just his tools.

On March 2nd the Parish Council got it right! (again) The PPSC was given its marching orders to build the Church NOW! And we are! The Church design has been completed through the Design Development phase which was shared by the architects with all of us on April 16th. Selected drawings and renderings are now posted on our webpage and can also be viewed on our bulletin board. We plan to start the concrete foundations for the Church in early June as soon as we receive our permit. Spirit II remains as scheduled to be completed for us to enjoy the 2010 Advent season. I can't wait! Plan to sit for masses in the new Parish Hall for only 8 months or so. Its going to be OK. We can do this as we watch our new Church being built next door and as we begin to make Spirit I into our new home. The detailed plans of how and when we will be moving, will start to be developed this July so we can smoothly move into Spirit I during January and February of next year.

Do you remember our expensive Force Main sewer that I have been talking to ya about. Well, it is now being installed by S & R Excavation for half our budgeted cost. The Smallhouse roadway improvements are being completed by Scotty's and that cost is being shared with the County and is also half our budgeted cost. The Spirit Boulevard entrance and front area grading is now in progress by the Holland Co. and again, it will cost much less than anticipated.

During April's Project Team Meeting, we developed plans to aggressively build the Church so it can be substantially dried-in this year. We also reviewed the construction progress of Spirit I, which remains closely on schedule as originally planned. Metal studs for the walls are now being installed by Wilkerson with light gauge metal roof trusses that will be fabricated and erected by Grayhawk to immediately follow in mid May. Brickwork by Simon Masonry and a 50 year metal slate looking roofing system to be installed by Geoghegan are then planned to begin in late May and June.

Based on awarded lump sum contracts we continue to forecast Spirit I to be built for our approved budget of \$6.044MM. The Spirit II approved budget is established at a Not To Exceed cost of \$7.3MM. This cost is \$300K less than as was estimated in our Parkside Building Plan. As I have said before; this is an excellent time to build as Contractors continue to aggressively bid work and material prices reflect our deflated economy.

Spirit I will be at least a LEED certified Project! Just to refresh your memory, LEED (That's L-E-E-D) Is an acronym for "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design". The article in the Daily News a week ago told a lot of the story. In fact, we are now tracking toward the higher Silver certification level. To be sure, this is beyond our original expectations. This good news is based on the notification from the United States Green Building Council that in their review of our building design, we will be able to earn all of the design credits that we counted on toward certification. That means, if we additionally earn the construction related credits, as we have submitted, we will become LEED certified or better in 2010. Also, we have just registered Spirit II, as a LEED Project.

Our Green Team of Patti Whetstone and Chris Nagy, lead by Brian Clements are pursuing grants in support of LEED educational credits. Its not enough just to build green, we must also actively support Green policies and building operational procedures. This includes recycling and energy management of water, air, power

and lights. A Parish survey will be conducted during the Parish Picnic to help us understand where our families are in their current "Green" knowledge and involvement. Based on this survey educational materials will then be developed by us, for us, to be used as part of our ECHO curriculum and in conjunction with our St Joe School (if the grants are awarded) to further develop our Catholic stewardship of energy and the environment.

In addition to Bernie Schwitzgebel's great pictures posted daily on our webpage, we now have another way for you to see what's going on at Parkside. Our Webcam is now operational so you can watch our construction progress in real time at any time. I especially enjoy watching early in the morning as I have my first cup of coffee.

We are also going to have "Sundays at Parkside" starting today at 2:00 to 4:00pm. However, due to the inclement weather, walking around, other than on the Spirit I concrete floor slab will really be muddy. If you want to brave the rain, come on out today (I'll be there) so you can see first hand, your campaign dollars hard at work! We plan to have one Sunday each month through September of this year for you to visit Parkside during construction. Our next Sunday at Parkside will not be until June 28th. At that time Father will offer special blessings for the Construction of the Church. Please check your Holy Spirit "Taking Flight" orange transition calendar for these future dates.

I hope to see ya out there. Please stop and talk with me and any of the other PPSC members Charlie Gries, Jack Thomas, Donnie Cook, and Tim Minor. Don't forget to talk to Brian Clements our LEED leader and Joe Meyer of SMD our Project Construction Manager. We are all very busy building Spirit I and very soon Spirit II so we can move into Spirit I and have our first Sunday Mass in the Parish Hall on March 7th 2010 Safely, in a Quality and Green facility, that is Cost effective, and on time as Scheduled.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support.