

Thank you Father

“Our Journey to Parkside” continued. Talk number eight. I have a lot of ground to cover, so if I run a bit longer than my strict five minute allotment please don't get too fidgety. Its all good!

The last time I talked was on July 13th just as we began to install the charcoal gray slate looking metal roof shingles and were just starting the brick masonry on the roof elevation for the five gable ends. That seems like such a long time ago as the roof is now completed and most of the windows are installed as we are now "dried-in" installing sheetrock everywhere. In fact the office and religious education areas have their walls entirely sheeted. Next week we will begin painting a prime coat on the walls and very soon starting to install ceiling grids and casework. Work activities outside the building are also now in full swing, with curbs, sidewalks and landscaping. By Thanksgiving Steve Bowra, Tim Minor and Randy Lamastus will have the Spirit Boulevard and the entire front side that faces Smallhouse road in sod and seeded in grass with trees. Wow! In three months we will be essentially completed and will be checking out our building systems.

Do you all like the fountain out in front of our Church? Well, it looks like we may have one too. Our planned Detention pond behind the Church at Parkside will now become a Retention pond. We have failed three times to drill a drywell to drain the area. Enough is enough! So obviously it was meant to be a pond with water. We will now design a beautiful pond as part of the Spirit II landscaping.

The Lord continues to provide us with all the directions we need. Which naturally brings us to the kitchen. This is one of my favorite parts of the project. David Bernardo of Rafertys and Chris Thomson of Pioneer restaurant, sprinkled with the wisdom from Jimmy Diemer, have designed our 995 SF kitchen which is 30% larger than our present kitchen. They are purchasing all the equipment for us to install during October, which they have found at bargain prices that will allow us to project a \$10K savings from their budget. Way to go kitchen crew! They will also be responsible to checkout the equipment and insure everything is exactly as intended. All the kitchen walls will now be covered in stainless steel as the material cost for stainless steel has fallen over the past year, which now makes this the cost effective thing to do.

I want to personally invite all of you again to come out to Parkside and experience the excitement of our building progress. Next Sunday afternoon on September 20th at 4:00pm will be our fourth and last "Sunday At Parkside". Where has the Summer gone? Please take advantage of this last opportunity to see first hand of what's going on. That's September 20th at 4:00pm. You will first notice that the Spirit Boulevard and Spirit I parking areas are now paved. You will also see glass windows, sheeted walls, geothermal equipment, piping and ductwork, electrical equipment and wiring, concrete curbs and sidewalks. You will also see the Church foundations that are nearly completed. You can now get a real good feel for the size and shape of the Piazza which is the courtyard between the Spirit Hall and the Church. Please do not miss this opportunity of a life time, before we close the doors and begin to work on interior room finishes which will prevent larger tours.

We will still continue to have construction progress pictures posted each day on our webpage by Bernie Schwitzgebel, and you can watch the construction of the Church on our webcam in real time at any time.

The Church bids were received July 20th and all major significant building Contracts have been awarded. I am pleased to announce that the cost of the Church is trending well below our approved NTE construction budget of \$7.3MM by at least \$300K. In short, our Church will now cost less than \$7MM. The concrete foundations will be ready to hang iron (that means erect structural steel) as it is delivered on site by mid October. "Boss, when it shows up, it goes up" Ahh, those are the words you love to hear. The steel framing is designed to support the yellow southern pine glue laminated trusses and beams being fabricated in Greenville, Alabama. Bernie and I will of course take a road trip to check it out for ourselves. The exposed glue laminated trusses and beams will support the wood decking (much like you see here) that will form the actual roof of the sanctuary, nave and narthex. Our plans are to have the Church substantially "dried-in" by next Spring in support of starting the interior masonry. The interior masonry will be a white sandstone that is quarried locally in Lewisburg, Kentucky. We will only need about two hundred, one ton pallets of stone to do the job. The overall Church construction plans, remain in place to complete work in November of 2010. The construction building sequences are now being developed by Scott Murphy and Daniel to provide an optimum schedule. Starting and stopping and jumping from one place to another needs to be avoided as much as possible. These are the kind of things that are now being addressed, so the construction effort is more like a symphony and not a hockey match.

The Church construction schedule will be issued in October in time for our next Project Team meeting that is scheduled to coincide with the Founders Day celebration. Tickets are now on sale. Our architects will attend the celebration to share in our fun and to show us the latest interior views of the Church.

The last time I talked, I mentioned that our pews would not be used in the new Church and that they could be made available to those who would like to have them. I stand corrected. The pews ARE part of the purchase price of our Church, so they are NOT available. However, should Living Hope not require all of them, I am sure we could make some arrangements.

The house is becoming a beautiful home as the rectory for our priests. The work effort is being lead by Charlie Gries. All of the work is being done by volunteers, which is saving literally tens of thousands of dollars, that directly helps to offset the church costs. If you have not yet seen the beautiful interior work that is nearly completed, PLEASE do so during your visit next Sunday at Parkside. Charlie is now starting to concentrate on the basement and exterior of the house.

Our "moving-in" plans were developed during the Summer. They are now posted on our bulletin board. In short, the rectory will welcome its first tenants in mid January, PDO will also occupy their new spaces in mid January, the staff personnel and religious educational functions will then follow in early February. Our last mass here will be on February 28th as we process to Parkside that same day. We will be ready! How about you?

I will see everyone out at Parkside next Sunday! This is our hope and expectation. 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 completing Spirit I and now building Spirit II so we can move into Spirit I and have our first Sunday Mass in the Spirit Hall on March 7th 2010 **S**afely, in a **Q**uality, **G**reen and **S**mart facility, that is **C**ost effective, and on time as **S**cheduled.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support.