

From Linda DeMarce, Pastoral Coordinator

November 8th, 2009 was a historic day for St. Theresa's Parish community. After a four-year renovation project, the fruits of our endeavors had become a reality and our new worship space was dedicated. Working in community we transformed our church building into a delineated, Catholic worship space. Our church became a sacred space in which our priest celebrants enjoy and look forward to saying Mass.

How much do we owe?

Today, as a parish community we all are enjoying the benefits of this project. However, reality steps in. The cost of the renovation was \$1.3 million. When all pledges diminish, on or about June 30th, 2013, our parish will have a balance owing to the Archdiocese of Seattle of approximately \$336,612 + interest.

Why should we pay off our debt?

As good stewards of our parish at St. Theresa, we simply cannot allow this debt to remain and continue to drain parish resources. Unless we as a community deal with this debt, it will soon negatively affect all aspects of our parish life. We will not be able to move forward with other important projects, such as the construction of a new social hall, which will allow us to expand our ministries and build our community through faith formation, community fellowship, and celebration. These elements are very important to our parish life. We need to be able to move toward a more vibrant life for St. Theresa Parish.

Who should participate?

As the Pastoral Coordinator of the parish, along with the members of our Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Debt Elimination Committee, I am inviting our entire parish to participate in our new project—to eliminate our parish debt. We need everyone in the parish to become part of this project. The parish leadership and I are asking each and every parishioner to be a part of the debt elimination, regardless of whether you have already given to the campaign and your pledge is paid in full, or you are still paying on your original pledge, or you were not in a position to make a commitment when the initial request was made, or you were never asked to make a commitment, or you are new to the parish.

When will the debt be paid?

We would like everyone in the parish to prayerfully consider or reconsider a two year financial commitment to this campaign. If everyone participates our debt could be completely paid by 2015. We all know and understand the difficult times in which not only as a parish we are struggling, but also as a country. However, it is essential to the life and growth of our parish community that our debt payment be complete by 2015.

What's the next step?

As a fellow parishioner as well as a member of staff I am always encouraged and humbled by the generosity of this parish. I am very confident that everyone will do their best to join the parish community by making your pledge to this campaign. In the week of June 20th (2011), each household in our parish will be receiving a letter from me outlining the Debt Elimination process along with a pledge card and return envelope.

Sharing God's gifts

As we go forth on this new journey within our parish, may God bless each of you and your loved ones. I thank all of you as a parish community for your support of our parish and the success of this campaign. I ask that each of us become aware of the various ways that God has blessed us in our life. Always remember that everything we are and have is a gift, given to us for only a short time.

May god bless you all.

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