

THE STILLWATER CATHOLIC

SERVING ST. FRANCIS XAVIER AND ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISHES

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MERGING OF PARISHES OF St. John the Evangelist and — St. Francis Xavier —

Our Managing Director of Formation and Operation, Vic Schutte, has conferred with Fr. Ken Harder, our building contractor, several of our key ministry leaders, and Bishop Konderla’s office to begin planning for the consecration and dedication of our new church. The tentative date for this has been set for Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017, but moving will start well before this date, probably beginning in October. We hope to hold the annual joint parish Thanksgiving Dinner the evening of Nov. 19, coupling this with a special celebratory event for the church dedication.

As most of our Catholic Community members know, having a new facility for this merger, while necessary, is not the only issue we have been addressing for the past four and a half years. For example, the Jt. Stewardship Committee has been hard at work to address differences in cultures and



operating procedures for the two parishes, and a number of changes are already underway. While all of the existing ministries will be merged, the progress of the Music Ministry has been identified as one of the most important to our parishioners in a survey conducted at both parishes at the beginning of this project. Fr. Ken Harder has named Marilyn Middlebrook as the overall Director

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Remembering Mamie: “A Mover and a Shaker”

There are few people who more fully embody the phrase “a mover and a shaker” than Margaret Mary Devlin. During the more than 50 years that she called Stillwater her home, Mamie, as everyone knew her, rarely met a stranger. She would introduce herself almost immediately to each new parishioner or visitor, jotting down their name and number on one of the Post-it notes that she always carried in her purse. Soon after, she'd be calling them up, inviting them to become involved in some form of parish ministry.

“She just exemplified stewardship,” says longtime friend Joyce Steindl. “She was always doing things for other people and she would be the first to welcome a newcomer.”

Always eager to serve, Mamie spent most of her life working behind the scenes, volunteering in a wide variety of ways. She was an active member in both Church Women United and the Women's Guild, was involved for a number of years in both the Girl and Boy Scouts, was a choir member, and served as Chairwoman for the Bereavement Committee. She occasionally served as a substitute teacher for Stillwater Public Schools,

and received the Person of the Year award in 1981 from the Stillwater Elks Lodge for her many years of volunteer service.

And in the process of doing all of this, Mamie would pull along everyone with her, reminding them about meetings and nudging them to get more involved in both the parish and the community at large.

“She made me get out and do stuff, because I could be a hermit real easily,” says parishioner Rose Green. “She would call and remind you of the Women's Guild meetings, and if you didn't come she would call and tell you what you missed.”

Filled with robustness and a sense of purpose, Mamie was always one to get things done. For years, she coordinated a cleaning of the church before Easter each year, making sure that every pew was thoroughly washed and that each altar server's cassock was washed and pressed. At Women's Guild meetings she was often the first to bring things up, making new suggestions for activities and ways to better serve the community. And for the annual Bazaar, she always “went the extra mile,” selling more raffle tickets than anyone else.

“She just really embodied service,” Joyce says. “She was just such a good soul. She had the best heart and cared more for other people than herself. She was a really good Christian.”

Mamie loved cooking and flowers. She would bake cakes for friend's birthdays and always sent flowers to bereaving parishioners. This was just another way that she exemplified Christ's love, often delivering hand-arranged flowers.

Mamie was devoted to her husband, Paul, and their four children, and she simply adored her grandchildren. Her life was focused on spreading kindness and making the world a better place. During times of sorrow or struggle, Mamie was famous for saying, ‘It doesn't have to make sense,’ taking life's setbacks in a stride and trusting in God's divine providence.

On Jan. 7, 2017, Mamie passed away peacefully, leaving behind her family and countless friends. While she is gone from our community, her spirit remains with us, continuing to prompt us to get involved and give of ourselves in whatever ways we can.



“She just really embodied service. She was just such a good soul. She had the best heart and cared more for other people than herself. She was a really good Christian.” – Joyce Steindl

(From left) Mamie Devlin, Joyce Steindl and Sandy Rooney at a birthday celebration in March 2015

Give Thanks to the Lord, It Is Right and Just

Dear Parishioners,

Every time we prepare our monthly letter to you in this newsletter, we are reminded how blessed we are. Being a priest truly is a blessing. While the job is not always easy — a pastor has many responsibilities — the rewards are equally humbling.

As we complete our preparations and then share in our celebrations of the Triduum and Easter, we are also prompted to think about the holiest things we do. By far, the holiest is celebrating Mass, and especially consecrating the holy bread and wine so Christ is present among us. The very word “consecration” literally means “association with the sacred.” To have that duty is incredible. We have never taken it for granted, and although it may appear at times to be somewhat automatic, it never is for me.

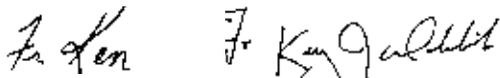
Almost all of us are familiar with the Mass, and with what we do and say leading up to the high point — the Eucharist. But we must guard against becoming too casual in our responses and what we say. That is what we work to avoid, but we believe you need to work just as diligently to make sure that you are listening, hearing, and being aware of what you are saying. For us as Catholics, the Mass is the most important sacred act in the Church.

We could write a whole series of letters or articles on the meaning of everything we say and do at Mass, but we think of one exchange in particular during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It is something we may say in sort of a habitual way, but we firmly believe each of us must truly consider what we are saying.

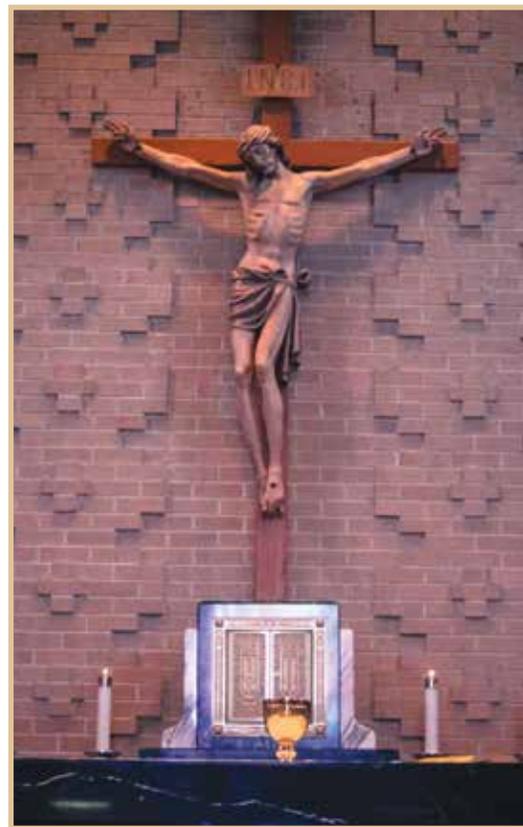
We say to you, “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,” and you respond, “It is right and just.” Think about what that means, because it is very much at the heart of stewardship. We are saying we need to thank God, show gratitude for everything we are and everything with which we are gifted — and you, at least in words, acknowledge that doing that is exactly what we need to do. The Mass is filled with statements and exchanges of that sort, and we would ask that we all really think about what they truly mean.

Even the simple exchange between the Eucharistic Minister and you at the actual reception of the Host is heavy with meaning. We say, “The Body of Christ,” and you reply “Amen.” In that instance, “Amen” means “Yes, I do believe this is Jesus.” You are blessed. Sometimes we just need to realize it. Happy Easter!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Kenneth Harder and Fr. Kerry Wakulich
Pastors



*We are saying we need
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Merging of Parishes *continued from front cover*

of the merged Music Ministry, and she will have the assistance of several parishioners working with her. She is laying plans now for how best to proceed when we are in the new facility.

Over the past several months, we have become aware of some questions from parishioners regarding other factors in this merger. It appears that a number of people believe that the existing St. Francis Xavier church will continue to be used for Mass and other services. However, this is not the case. We plan to take from the existing church many items needed in the new church, for which we presently have insufficient funds to purchase. These items include the following – organ, piano, tabernacle, sanctuary light, vestments, sacred vessels, all sanctuary support items and supplies, altar of reservation (on which the tabernacle sets), the ambo, the ambry, various items from the parish hall, and other items not yet identified. Accordingly, there will not be the necessary articles left in the existing church to hold Mass or other special services. While from time-to-time, Fr. Ken might make exceptions, no regular services will be held at the existing church. Moreover, since maintaining heating and air conditioning in this existing building would expend funds needed to operate the new facility, heat and air will be at an absolute minimum, such that the building will not be comfortable for occupants.

As stated, financial support for operations, specifically for two facilities, remains a topic of concern. Using the annual financial reports from both SFX and SJE for the past three years, together with current income and expense data, we have put together an annual income and expense projection for operating the new facility, given in the attached table. At least five different parishioners with



A group of OSU student parishioners with St. John parishioners Cathy Perry and Sharon Sample.

expertise in these matters have reviewed these projections. As most know, the primary income will be the weekly offertory contributions of our parishioners. As can be readily seen, we will need all of the offertory contributions from both parishes to operate the new facility, and even with this, we will do well to break even, perhaps needing to downsize a few programs. While it is likely that offertory contributions will not be an issue for SFX parishioners, we have heard that plans for the continued support of SJE have not been implemented in a timely fashion, and thus a fraction of parishioners from SJE might continue their offertory contributions to SJE after the merger. It was agreed at the start of this project that all the non-student offertory contributions should go to the new merged parish. SJE offertory contributions remaining at SJE will place the new facility facing considerable challenges to meet expenses, and of course, such a fraction would not be sufficient to operate SJE, such that both enterprises could be marginalized.

As most know, we have worked for almost five years to raise capital for and construct a magnificent new facility, and we are approaching the end of this project. We pray that our entire Catholic Community will rise to the occasion to provide the offertory funding necessary to maintain and operate this new facility. We ask for your prayers and commitment to bring this to a successful conclusion.

**STILLWATER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FY 2018 ANNUAL MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS
BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR NEW SFX/SJE FACILITIES**

CONSOLIDATED INCOME - PROJECTED FOR FY 2018

SFX OFFERTORY GROWTH 2013 -2016 = 0.400%/yr
SJE OFFERTORY GROWTH 2013 - 2015 = 1.056%/YR

SFX REGULAR OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS-FY16	\$	373,282	101%	\$	376,268
SFX ROYALTY, INTEREST, & MISC. INCOME - FY16	\$	18,629	100%	\$	18,629
* SJE REG. OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS - FY 2016	\$	347,985	96%	\$	334,066

*Assume 7% of SJE offertory comes from students. Adjustment for 2 yrs growth gives multiplier of 0.93 X 1.0212 = 0.96

Note: Pre-School Income not counted - assume this all goes to pay pre-school costs.

TOTAL \$ 728,963

PROJECTED MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION COST

	sq. ft.	cost/sq. ft.		
INSURANCE	41,200	\$	0.83	\$ 34,196
UTILITIES	41,200	\$	1.52	\$ 62,624
FACILITY MAINTENANCE	41,200	\$	1.75	\$ 72,100
JANITORIAL SVCS & SUPPLIES	41,200	\$	2.13	\$ 87,756
TOTAL COST FOR ABOVE		\$	6.23	\$ 256,676
OUTSIDE MAINTENANCE - BY CONTRACT				\$ 28,875
EXIST. SFX CHURCH (Close Bldg; Keep insurance & min. utilities)	12,151	\$	1.60	\$ 19,442
TOTAL M & O COSTS				\$ 304,993

OTHER ANNUAL COSTS

ADMINISTRATION SALARIES, WAGES & BENEFITS	227,083
PRIEST EXPENSES	11,500
RECTORY RENTAL (Assume total rent = \$1,667/mo; rectory utilities = \$275/mo.)	23,304
ADMIN. COSTS (OTHER THAN SALARIES & BEN - WORSHIP & LITURGY, PGM, AND RE	134,610
CATHEDRATICUM (5.0% OF ASSESSABLE PARISH INCOME)	36,448
MUSIC PROGRAM INCREASE	15,000
DEFERRED MAINTENANCE (Various + Replace Roof in 40 years. Assume \$2.0MM total in 40 yrs @ 7%APR)	\$ 10,018
MAINTENANCE, OPERATION, AND AMORTIZATION OF EQUIP FOR LAWN & INTERIOR CARE	\$ 2,500
ESTIMATED ANNUAL EXPENSES FY 2018	\$ (765,456)
EST ANNUAL OFFERTORY & MISC COLLECTIONS FY 2018	\$ 728,963
EST ANNUAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INCOME AND EXPENSES FY 2018	\$ (36,493)

When Fr. Kerry arrived as pastor of SJE, he found that raising financial support from SJE student alumni was not as far along as needed to operate SJE. While Fr. Kerry has been very supportive of having his non-student parishioners join the new merged parish, he finds himself in a difficult financial position in losing the offertory contributions of the SJE non-student parishioners. As most of us know, the OSU Catholic Student Center at SJE is the largest such university center in the Tulsa Diocese, serving Catholic students from all parts of the diocese, and yes, all parts of Oklahoma, as well as from numerous other states and abroad. Yet to this date, financial support for this center has come mainly from the Stillwater area residents who are members of SJE. In the opinion of many from the Catholic Community in Stillwater, there is an inherent inequity in this arrangement, whereby

Stillwater parishioners support almost totally a Catholic Student Center that serves the entire diocese, state and nation. Accordingly, an appeal to Bishop Konderla has been made requesting appropriate annual financial support for the SJE Student Center, until such time as annual solicitations from OSU Catholic alumni, added to OSU athletic event parking fees and other special regional fundraising, has yielded sufficient funds to provide the SJE Student Center what is needed.

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An Update on Our NEW JOINT PARISH PROJECT



Photo 1 – March 10, sheet rock installation, education wing, looking south, by Mark Pruitt



Photo 2 – March 3, sheet rock installation, parish hall, looking northeast, by Mark Pruitt

As of this writing (second Week of March), our construction project remains on schedule. During this time period, there were 110 subcontract personnel on site, up from 42 three weeks previous to this. Subcontractor numbers are expected to remain near this maximum for much of March, and then begin to decrease as the various subs complete most of their work. Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing (MEP) work is continuing in the nave, and pressure testing for the ductwork was conducted during the first week of March. Interior sheet rock installation has been completed in the education wing (Photo 1), the parish hall (Photo 2), and the administration wing (Photo 3), and sheet rock installation in the gym and teen lounge is underway. The Youth Director's office in the youth area has been framed. For the geothermal well

field, the underground valve manifold vault has been installed (Photo 4), and lateral lines to the 100 wells have been connected to the vault and pressure tested. Backfilling the lateral line trenches is underway, and connection of the vault to the main supply and return lines to the building is expected to be completed by the end of March. Bricklaying is complete on the east side of the education wing (Photo 5), and is continuing on the north and west sides, as well as around the parish hall. To date, approximately 17 percent of all the brick and cast stone has been laid. All Marvin windows and doors have been delivered, and most have been installed. Shingle installation is complete throughout the facility.

Our latest Revenue and Expense Statement, dated Jan. 1, 2017, and presented in last month's newsletter, shows that if we spend no more

of our contingency fund (currently at \$412,153), we would slightly overbalance the current projected negative balance of approximately \$400K. However, we recently learned from our architects that the nice pews we have specified will cost us approximately \$84K more than our pew allowance in our contract with Nabholz. Staying within this allowance would get us bottom-of-the-line pews which might last 25 years (as opposed to 100 years) and would not be of solid wood, which we feel would be inappropriate to match all the other grand finishings in the church. Accordingly, we project at least a negative \$84K at the end of the project, which is considerably less than the \$250K negative amount we projected more than a year ago, such that in the worst case, we would have to borrow this and pay it off from operating income.

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Photo 3 – March 10, sheet rock installation, administration wing, looking north, by Mark Pruitt



Photo 4 – March 3, vault for valve manifold in geothermal well field, looking north, by Mark Pruitt

Our current budget has no funding for liturgical furnishings, but such a category is included on our long-standing “wish list,” also given in last month’s newsletter. However, we felt that we really should not move into the new church without some liturgical items, the most important of which is the altar. (In fact, we cannot have the consecration and dedication without the new altar, per church policy.) We have learned that once an altar is consecrated, church policy prohibits moving it, so we cannot use the current SFX altar. We also felt that a number of other items would be needed in the new church before dedication, such as a reredos, crucifix, and some statuary.

Our architects have put us in touch with an old-line craft shop in northern Italy, Stuflesser, which does beautiful work and is reasonably

priced. Over the past several months, we have been working with them to get matching handmade-in-wood custom liturgical items, including: altar of sacrifice, altar of reservation, reredos, crucifix, some statuary, ambo, baptistery, and possibly frames for Stations of the Cross. The total for all of this comes to 348,460 euros (recent exchange rate 1.056 dollars per euro). However, Stuflesser cannot get all of this to us in time for our dedication and consecration, tentatively scheduled for Nov. 19. Moreover, since we currently do not have the funds in hand to pay for all of this, we asked Stuflesser to split the work into two contracts, only the first of which would be executed immediately. The first contract would cover items which Stuflesser said they could ship by the end of August 2017, which would include: reredos, crucifix, six statues

in the reredos, altar of sacrifice, and altar of reservation with three wood steps up to it.

Total price for this first shipment, including packaging and shipping is 227,680 euros. We would do the installation ourselves, with the help of a local contractor. We have approached a few individuals for large gifts to cover this, and currently have slightly more than half of this pledged from a few parishioners. Based on preliminary talks with a few others, we believe the chances are very good that we could raise the remaining funds for this first shipment in time to pay off the invoices. Accordingly, we have proceeded with executing this first contract with Stuflesser.

The remaining items from Stuflesser include (custom, handmade-in-wood): statue of Mary holding the baby Jesus, statue of Joseph, ambo,

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF STILLWATER

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

PO Box 909 • Stillwater, OK 74076

Web: www.stfrancisxavierstillwater.org

Phone: (405) 372-6886

St. John University Parish and Catholic Student Center

201 N. Knoblock St. • Stillwater, OK 74075

Web: www.catholicpokes.com

Phone: (405) 372-6408

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St. Francis Xavier

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil, 5 p.m.

Sunday, 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m. (Español)

Daily Mass

Tuesday - Thursday, 8 a.m., Friday, 12:10 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday, 5:45 - 7 p.m.

Saturday, 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

St. John the Evangelist

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil, 6 p.m.

Sunday, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m. during semester

Daily Mass

Mondays at 12:10 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 5:10 p.m.

Wednesday, 12:10 p.m. & 9 p.m. during semester

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Change Service Requested

Joint Parish Project *continued from page 7*

baptistery, and possibly frames for the Stations of the Cross, which would cost 120,780 euro (including packaging and shipping). We would not plan to execute the second contract with them until we knew the status of ongoing fundraising, and if ordered, they would likely arrive sometime after the dedication. In the meantime, we would use what items we can from the current St. Francis church. The Stations of the Cross would come from a source within the U.S., costing approximately \$40,000. Additional funds for this would need to be raised as well.

There will be other liturgical items needed as well, but these are much less expensive. Some of them can come from the existing St. Francis Xavier church, while others can be had from the used church furnishings market.

As always, please continue to pray for the success of this project. Many thanks to those who have paid off their pledges or are on track to pay them off soon. For those who have not yet pledged or contributed, whether new parishioners or not, we would welcome your financial contributions. Please contact Vic Schutte at the SFX parish office: 405-372-6886; saintfrancisdfo@brightok.net.



Photo 5 – March 3, brick installation, east side of education wing, looking west, by Mark Pruitt