



SACRED HEART CHURCH

1040 39th Street
Sacramento, CA
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916.452.4136



Pastor
Msgr. Robert Walton

In Residence
Father Vincent Juan

Deacons
Gil Parra
Bill Riehl

School Principal
Theresa Sparks

Religious Education
Kristin Hansen

RCIA &
Adult Faith Formation
Rita Spillane


Youth Ministry
Bridget & Dave Parsh

Music Director
Dr. Donald Kendrick

Administrative Staff
Barbara Valentini

Gifts from the Heart

Gifts from the heart can have long lasting effects on loved ones and on strangers. Monetary gifts to individuals, groups of individuals, or institutions often have an unseen emotional impact as well as a financial impact on those receiving the gifts. Gifts from the heart that are not monetary, but are of a service nature are often silent gifts that receive little or no recognition; but provide immediate and sometimes lifelong gratification in unpredictable ways. Gifts of kindness, wisdom, and love are sometimes thoughtful and sometimes spontaneous; but almost always are an extension of God's will for us to love our neighbor as ourselves. In this issue of the Spirit, we share with you the stories of some parishioners who have given and continue to give gifts from their heart.

JESUS MEET & HUMBLE OF HEART  MAKE OUR HEARTS LIKE YOURS

Enhancing our Parish, Advancing our School...



Heart Parish and to the Diocese of Sacramento.



The parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish have participated in three consecutive capital campaigns since 2002: first, the diocesan "Preserving our Past, Building our Future" campaign; second, the parish "Enhancing our Parish, Advancing our School" campaign; and third, the diocesan "ONE" campaign. In all of these campaigns, parishioners rose to the challenge and demonstrated great generosity and commitment to the Church. Thank you to all our campaign workers and donors for the gifts of time, talent and treasure to Sacred Heart Parish and to the Diocese of Sacramento.

The "Preserving our Past, Building our Future" was a great success as attested by the magnificent restoration of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament and by the rejuvenation of our exterior church entrances and landscape.

The "Enhancing our Parish, Advancing our School" campaign was a major undertaking during a time of great financial uncertainty. The campaign goal was an ambitious one: raise \$2.25 million over a 5-year pledge period. As you know, Parishioners responded generously, exceeding our goal. 432 households of 1,100 registered households contributed over \$2.3 million in one-time gifts, pledges, in-kind donations, and donations of religious artwork. This is an accomplishment of which we can be justly proud as a Parish. This extraordinary endeavor is providing for both our School and our Parish for decades to come.



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Sacred Heart School. . .

. . . A Legacy from Past to Future Generations

Sacred Heart School benefited significantly from the “Enhancing our Parish, Advancing our School Campaign.” The infrastructure of the school was funded primarily through the hospital, but the extraordinary facilities, the art work, and the state of the art learning environments are a result of generous donations from parishioners and other donors. If you ever wonder how your donations impacted Sacred Heart School just talk to Fr. Walton, Theresa Sparks, the teachers, the support staff, and the children, and you will be gratified that you have helped create a legacy that will live on for generations to come.



Many of Sacred Heart’s parishioners were saddened by the tearing down of the old school. Some Alumni lamented that the traditions and fond memories would be lost with the move to a new school. Not to worry, every effort was made to symbolically preserve the old within the new. From the moving of the cross from the old school building to the new, to the framing of the center of the old gym floor, to the preserving of the letters “Sacred Heart School”, the walls and halls of the new Sacred Heart School are graced with glimpses of the past. By the way, a donation will still get you bricks from the old school.

Often when we give from the heart, the joy is in the giving itself. In the case of your donations to the last fund raising campaign, you should know that your generosity has made a significant difference not only for children in the parish, but also for others

throughout the diocese as no longer needed furniture, shelving, and kitchenware were donated to financially challenged schools. The students further enhanced the donated desks by writing personal notes to the new recipients and placing them in their respective desks. The new Sacred Heart School is a state of the art learning facility where every classroom has a smart board on which teachers can project prepared materials and information directly from the internet. Additionally, every classroom is equipped with wireless mikes and a surround-sound system. As principal Theresa Sparks describes it: “There is not a bad seat in the house.”



Attending a brand new school that was created with a vision toward the future and with sensitivity to our Catholic heritage has been a blessing for the children. Both teachers and students share a renewed enthusiasm for



learning. Mrs. Sparks strongly believes that, by having new furniture that they helped to select and a technologically advanced facility, the children’s pride in their school has been elevated. The daily use of modern technology has increased their confidence in speaking and presenting information. Beyond the classroom a multifaceted learning environment has been created by the modern technologies in the large gymnasium with two scoreboards, a surround sound system, a modern PA system, and a gigantic screen. Furthermore wooden floors, a stage, bleachers, and a durable floor cover constitute a showpiece which enhances sport and performing arts opportunities in the gym. All of this has been made possible through donations to the campaign.

Also noticeable is the magnificent artwork throughout the school and in the classrooms. A few examples are the tapestry of the Last Supper in the Cafeteria, the Bas Relief of Christ on the tower building, the paintings, sculptures, and crucifixes in each room which are all the result of money raised through the campaign or through private donors. Additionally, each classroom has “adopted” a saint chosen from those depicted in the Sacred Heart Church stained glass windows. A photograph of that window is hung prominently in the classroom.

The school is extremely grateful to all those who so generously gave during the “Enhancing Our Parish, Advancing Our School Campaign.”



Enhancing Our Parish, Advancing our School Case Statement

Our New School

\$1 million (\$500,000 for construction costs; \$500,000 in a fund for the purchase of the new school site)

\$500,000 (building enhancements, e.g. hardwood gym floor & bleachers; equipped kitchen/cafeteria, long-lasting flooring, counters, cabinetry, and instructional technology)

Our School Foundation

\$500,000 (scholarship assistance)

Our Church Building Fund

\$250,000 (restoration/preservation of stained-glass windows and saving for the painting of the church interior)

Six Years Later . . .



In the summer of 2008, just as the deepest financial crisis to hit the US economy in decades was making itself felt; Sacred Heart Parish launched a parish capital campaign, “Enhancing our Parish, Advancing our School.” Prompted by Mercy General Hospital’s (MGH) need to expand its facility, the parish and MGH had reached an agreement that would give MGH the property the old school sat on in exchange for the parish agreeing to move the school to a new facility. After countless hours of negotiation with MGH, the neighborhood community and the parish interests were enough aligned that a joint plan for the MGH expansion (including a heart center) and new school was presented to the Sacramento City Council in 2007. Once approval was given, work began on site preparation for the new school. At the same time, Msgr. Walton, the Pastoral Council, the Finance Council, and the School Advisory Commission began planning for a capital campaign that would provide funds for church renovation, for school scholarships, and for supplementing the new school design with several enhancements. The last time the parish

had asked for funds for capital improvements was in the early 1990s when the Parish Hall was built. The time had come for a new campaign.

Appointed as volunteers in charge of the campaign were Mike & Jennifer O’Brien and Greg Dyer, all parents of Sacred Heart School graduates and longtime parishioners. They were assisted by a committee of fellow parishioners and the professional staff from Community Counselling Service a case statement was agreed upon, and over a period of five months, the campaign was run. The funds were to be collected over five years, with the goal of \$2.25 million to be raised.

Now it is 2014, six years after the campaign started. It is only fair and prudent to ask ourselves, how did we do? Was the goal met? Were the pledges fulfilled? Moreover, was the money spent in accord with the case statement? And what has been the impact on the parish, the school, and the neighborhood?

Was the goal met?

As noted, the goal was set at \$2.25 million. Pledges were received in the amount of \$2.3 million, exceeding the goal. Sacred Heart parishioners are generous and conscious of their obligation to provide for future generations of Catholics in East Sacramento.

Was the money spent in accord with the case statement?

Various groups were involved in supervising that the raised funds were used appropriately according to the case statement. Stephanie Dovichi and Justin Reginato, construction management consultants volunteered their time in weekly meetings with Father Walton and Rita Spillane to



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Sacred Heart Students Give Back

The generous gifts that were donated during the “Enhancing our Parish, Advancing our School” campaign go beyond material items. The children of Sacred Heart School realize they are the recipients of a very generous and caring parish. Just as the willingness to give from the heart is part of



the parish culture, it is also integrated in the culture of Sacred Heart School. Mrs. Sparks explains: “The culture at Sacred Heart is not just academic preparation; but a well-rounded education.” As one teacher from St. Francis says, “Not only are the Sacred Heart students academically well prepared, they are socially involved, and have a sense of self and of service for others.”



The students at Sacred Heart School embrace the teachings of Christ, especially the Golden Rule “do unto others as we would have them do unto you.” They participate in several service learning programs that provide them with lifelong experiences. For example, once a year, the entire school participates in a fundraiser where each child is given a baby bottle that they fill with coins that they save from their own “sacrificing.” The money collected is then passed on to the Life Center to help other children who are not as fortunate as they are. Other classroom projects range from creating blankets for the poor (kindergarten) to knitting hats for the needy (4th grade).

The school’s proximity to Mercy McMahan, has allowed an interaction which has been a blessing to the children as well as to the residents. For example, at the 2013 Christmas Pageant, the residents at Mercy McMahan



were honored guests and received reserved front row seating. The residents were thrilled to be there. In an on-going organized program, Mrs. Mosbrucker, the 2nd grade teacher, has her students read to volunteer residents. The residents love the program and do their best to facilitate the reading process. (in the accompanying pictures are Bob Blair (top), Loretta Geremia (left), and Nell Keim (right)). This intergenerational program is touching to watch and gratifying for both the children and the residents.



An unexpected benefit between the school and Mercy McMahan occurred when the children and many of the residents became “window buddies.” When the school first opened, many of the residents gravitated to the second floor dining room to watch the children during recess and other outdoor activities. They were surprised that, when they waved to the children, the children would smile and wave back. For many of the seniors, seeing the children play has become a substitute for seeing their own grandchildren.

It is gratifying to know that the children of Sacred Heart School are creating new traditions and are in their own unique way generously passing on their gifts of love and caring to others.



Enhancing Our Parish, Advancing our School Campaign Committee & Volunteers

Mike & Jennifer O'Brien and Greg Dyer (chairs)

Major gifts

Margo Brown, Deane Dana, Mary Domyancic, Terry Flynn, Charles French, Marti Geiger, Jan Geremia, Nancy Heffernan, Frank & Adriana Paoletti, Carolyn Reid, Val Siebal, Rita Spillane, Ann Tracy, Bill & Theresa Walters, Mark & Molly Wiese, Jean Winchell

Advance gifts

Eric Boemer, Jeanne Brennan, Linda & Greg Brida, Ray Burnell, Tony Clark, Steve Hyde, Matt Jaime, Jerry Kirrene, Dick Maly, Nancy Mathai, Bob Roth, Anne Tingle, Frank Werry, Denis & Dona Zilaff

The leadership of Mike & Jennifer O'Brien and Greg Dyer was complemented by the tenacious work and heartfelt support of our Parish Campaign Committee. They are deserving of our gratitude. The success of the Campaign attests to their dedication to the Parish.

Enhancing our Parish, Advancing our School...

... continued from page 1



In 2013, Bishop Jaime Soto announced that the Diocese would undertake a major diocesan campaign in the fall of last year, requiring the participation of all parishes throughout the diocese. Each parish was given a campaign goal based on a three-year average of its offertory collection. Our parish goal was \$560,000. The diocesan ONE Campaign has a sharing formula enabling the Parish to receive 25% of the funds raised up to its goal and 67% of funds raised over its goal.

A successful ONE Campaign continues and expands the work of our “Enhancing our Parish, Advancing our School” campaign. Our share of ONE Campaign funds will enhance our Parish by adding to the Church Building Fund so that we can move ahead with plans for the church interior and will advance our School by making technology improvements and covering start-up costs for a transitional kindergarten.

Our participation in the ONE Campaign began this past January. We are pleased to report that at this point we have already exceeded our parish goal, and are now receiving 67¢ on every \$1.00 raised.

Our Parish ONE Campaign Committee consists of Greg Dyer, chair; Frank Mugartegui (Finance Council chair); Emilia Jankowski (Pastoral Council chair); Erin Guerreo (School Commission chair); Denis Zilaff (School Foundation chair); Rita Spillane;



Dana, Pam & Ronan McGhee, and Mary Doll (secretary). Under their able leadership, the parish response to the ONE Campaign is confirming once again the great generosity of our parishioners to support the works of the Church at both the diocesan and parish levels.

The ONE Campaign is enabling us to pursue our Parish vision of “Enhancing our Parish and Advancing our School”. We thank our participating parishioners for making this vision a reality in our Parish.

Enhancing Our Parish, Advancing our School Campaign - Our Families Participate

432 participating families

101 families made a one-time gift

331 families made a pledge

29 families continue pledge payments

21 cancelled pledges (e.g. moved away, death, change in employment status)



- ... that Karl Vostrez, the professional who took the photos for the Parish Pictorial Directory, is a parishioner, and has generously volunteered hundreds of hours photographing Parish events over the past few years.
- ... that Schola Cantorum has just recorded its 9th CD of sacred music.

- ... that Samatha (Sammi) Guerrero, a 5th grader at Sacred Heart Parish School, finished fourth in the California Central Valley Spelling Bee with a recorded number of 66 children participating.
- ... that 13 people were welcomed into the Church at our Parish Easter Vigil this past Easter.
- That, under the direction of Donald Kendrick, Vox Nova, our Men's Choir, is celebrating its 10th anniversary of singing at the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

- ... that Iconographer Sister Anne Sekul, RSM, painted two, spectacular icons for the new chapel at the Alex G. Spanos Cardiac & Vascular Center at Mercy General Hospital. (Sr. Anne grew up in Sacred Heart Parish and graduated from the school, is a Sister of Mercy, and was principal of Sacred Heart School in 1988.)



In conjunction with the building of the new school, two families stepped forward to make a generous donation of an entire building. Pete and Jan Geremia and John and Darcy Saca donated St. Anthony Hall, located on the school site. The building, used for numerous parish and school functions, was built concurrently with the school by the families' construction firm, and is dedicated to the memory of their family patriarchs: Anthony Geremia and Antony Saca.

Six Years Later

... continued from page 3



ensure accountability for the \$ 1 million allocated for the school construction and the building enhancements. Enhancements included \$500,000 spent on hardwood floor for the gym, a fully equipped kitchen and cafeteria, and upgraded paint and materials for a more durable finish on the interior.

The Parish Finance Council was responsible for the distribution of \$500,000 that was given to the Sacred Heart Parish School Foundation, a charitable organization that collects and manages funds to be used in defraying the costs of tuition at Sacred Heart School. The Foundation funds can now ensure that the Foundation can meet a yearly grant to Sacred Heart School, even if the return on endowed funds decreases.

Finally the Parish Finance Council also oversaw the \$250,000 which was used to begin the long process of restoring the church building. The Stations of the Cross were cleaned, the church interior was cleaned, and the magnificent stained glass windows were washed and re-leading begun. The old Plexiglas covers on the windows were removed and clear glass installed, bringing even more color to the interior of the church.

To best appreciate the impact of the campaign, we have only to talk to children who now spend their elementary school days in the new facility. Sydney Laird, a 2d grader who has never known any school but the new campus, loves the campus, stating that it is beautiful, "never dirty," and she always feels safe.



Krysta Alvarez, a 7th grader remembers the old campus well. She is thrilled with the new campus, the technology it offers, and how beautiful it is. She noted that Sacred Heart can now share its resources with other schools because, unlike before, its gymnasium can be used for league games and tournaments.

The proximity of the school site to Mercy McMahon and its residents was cited by both girls as an unexpected benefit of attending Sacred Heart. The children often engage in projects for the residents, and love interacting with them.

In sum, the Enhancing our Parish, Advancing our School campaign more than lived up to its promises. It has succeeded in making Sacred Heart Parish ready for another 84 years of serving Catholics in East Sacramento.



The Sacred Heart Family

In Memoriam . . . July - December 2013

"May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

Josephine Noya
Virginia Rohrer
Mauraid Cahill
Ramona Artero
Desiree Flynn
Jennifer Milne
John Reardon
John Crowley

Katheryne Walton
Rita Pint
Rosemary Gillingham
Graham Morey
Frank Danko
Riley Jensen
Thomas Koewler
Patricia Palmer

Paul Guidera
Patricia Fellos
Vera Vollenweider
Frank Boutin
Mary Toccalini

Baptism . . . July - December 2013

"You have put on Christ, you have been baptized." (Rite of Baptism)



Colette AndrewsPayton Lunbarsky
Addilynn Mason
Gwendolyn Wanser
Everett Wanser
Charles Cuneo
Haddie Cuneo
Graham Madden
Austin Wiggins
Presley Wiggins
Benjamin Williams
Emilia Smith
Ellie Kramer
Mateo Popjevalo
Olivia Smith
Kaden Smith
Isabella Gonzalez
Kaitlyn Gonzalez
Sofia Ruano

Julia Davenport
Broderick Merryman
Finn Hale
Aidan Hermosisima
Delaney Broderick
Cora Carollo
Christian Difuntorum
Gretchen Mathios
Alexander Szymanowski
John Dayton
Bradlee Dal Ben
Cali Chambers
Charley Chambers
Christopher Ngo
Oliver Kulich
Kurt Frandrup
Lucy Scheidlinger
Lorenzo Millstone



Marriages . . . July - December 2013

"I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life." (Rite of Marriage)

Esmeralda Islos & Rene Pina
Indre Dineikaite & Gavin McCluskey
April Pangilinan & Enoc Zepedamunoz

THE SPIRIT

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