
St. Joseph of Cupertino

St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish
Cupertino, California
~~ 100 years, 1913 – 2013 ~~

February 2015

Flyer



Parish and School Maintenance and Repair Projects

By Steve Hill

The parish church, rectory, hall and school classrooms were built and paid for by parishioners in the 1950s and 1960s. (The names of prominent donors are memorialized in the church's stained glass windows.) Since then, we've been able to benefit from their selfless investments. However, infrastructure ages with time and usage, and we've been faced with expensive, unbudgeted repairs. As stewards of this church and school complex, it is our obligation to be generous in funding maintenance, repairs and upgrades.

Hall Roof

For several years the parish hall has experienced leaking problems during the rainy season. Coverage by solar panels complicated making effective repairs. The situation finally reached a point where the entire roof needed to be replaced promptly.

The Diocesan Facilities Director (paid through ADA funds) provided guidance on developing a bid package and soliciting bids from contractors. Bids were opened in December at the Diocesan offices. The cost for the roof repair was reasonable at about \$65,000.

However, removal and replacement of the solar panels added another \$62,000 cost to the project due to electrician fees and the cost of renting a crane for removal and replacement of the panels. After consulting with the Diocesan Facilities Director, the decision was made to remove the solar panels and not reinstall. It is not cost-effective to invest \$62,000 to re-install 10-year old solar panels.

Solar panels were installed on the hall roof and school classrooms free of charge ten years ago because we qualified for a P.G. & E. grant. The panels are on a long-term lease. Principal Mary Lyons and Vice Principal Mike Lee met with representatives from the solar company, including Mike Clifton (father of an SJC alumnus), who installed and has maintained the solar panel system, to discuss possible solutions. They agreed it is not cost effective to re-install 10-year old panels. (The hall's panels produced about 15% of the overall solar panel power.) To help SJC, the solar company determined that SJC has complied with the minimum terms of the lease, and they donated the solar panel system to the school.

In other good news, the roofer has the capability to remove the panels that will not entail an expensive crane rental, significantly reducing the cost for that part of the job. The panels will be saved for use as replacements.

The cost of the hall roof repairs is being funded by our parish school, school families, the Holy Name Society and the Knights of Columbus. The Holy Name Society donated \$20,000, and school families contributed \$20,000 to a special roof repair fund. The Knights of Columbus recently indicated they hope to donate \$5,000. The remaining amount is coming from the school's general fund and a school unrestricted fund.

Natural Gas Main Line

Last November, the smell of natural gas was detected in the area of the school's art room and library. PG&E was called to ascertain the source of the leak. Their investigation revealed major failure of the main gas line that feeds the church, rectory, hall and one wing of the school.

The gas line was shut off, leaving the church, rectory, community center, hall, school office, library and art room without heat. Father Greg arranged for a contractor to replace the worn line, and full service was restored. The contractor used horizontal drilling to create holes beneath pavement and sidewalks to insert the pipe. This technique significantly reduced the amount of pavement needed to be torn up and also sped up the process.

The parish paid for the \$72,000 cost of the gas line repair/replacement. Coincidentally, this occurred about the same time as the hall roof repair.

Church lighting

As a follow up to a previous article, the ceiling lighting in the church was entirely upgraded from incandescent to LED lights in December. The new lights provide a full spectrum and consume a fraction of the electricity of the incandescents. The cost of this upgrade was funded by a generous contribution from a parishioner.

Church HVAC

Last November, the air conditioning heat exchanger on the northwest corner of the church failed. A consequence of this failure was the leakage of several gallons of water on top of the crying room ceiling. The weight of the water and its effect on the plaster caused part of the ceiling to collapse. You may remember several masses were warm due to the loss of air conditioning.

The crying room ceiling was repaired by one of our resourceful maintenance staff, Hernando Gomez. The HVAC unit was replaced at a cost of \$11,000, funded by generous parishioners who responded to a special appeal.

Parish Advisory Council

Who we are – What we do

By Ed Johnson

The role of our Parish Advisory Council is to provide community advice to our Pastor on matters of importance. The Council serves a consultative role between members of the Parish at large and the Pastor and staff with a goal of building and strengthening our community. The Council studies matters brought to its attention, reflects on them thoroughly, evaluates them and draws sound conclusions. The Council presents these conclusions to the Pastor in the form of recommendations. The threefold task of the Parish Advisory Council is investigating, considering and recommending conclusions.

Matters for consideration may originate from our Pastor, his staff, council members and parishioners at large. Meetings are open to all parishioners.

The Parish Advisory Council is one of two councils mandated by our Diocese; the other is the Finance Council. The Advisory Council at St Joseph of Cupertino was initiated in late 2005 and was fully functional by February 2006 when the constitution was adopted.

Council membership consists of nine voting members. Members serve three year terms with a term limit of six years. Terms are staggered such that three members begin and end terms each year. Members must pass discernment by the Pastor and be elected by the seated Council members.

Ellen Haas, PAC Vice Chair, has been an Advisory Council member for several years and has provided the following views:

What is the mission of the Council? "From my point of view, my responsibility is to be a liaison, sharing with Father Greg any suggestions/concerns my fellow parishioners might have as they follow Christ in our Church, while also working to implement all that Father Greg believes we, here at St. Joseph of Cupertino, need to be faithful disciples of Jesus."

What inspired you to serve on the Council? "Having spent a few years questioning whether Jesus did indeed leave a Church for his disciples to follow, and arriving at the conclusion that He indeed did, I wanted to be part of making our little parish in Cupertino a more friendly and welcoming church home, and a place where those who have questions can find solid answers."

How can others serve? "We need to encourage one another to extend that amazing gift of God's fatherly love to others through acts of kindness and compassion -- and that's where the Parish Advisory Council can offer help. Visit our Council's Welcoming/Information table to ask how you can be a part of the many ministries that extend God's love to others."

What is your vision for our parish? "When we gather as the family of God at Mass wouldn't it be wonderful to see parishioners move into the middle of the pew to provide extra room for those who might arrive later, smile, participate fully in the Mass, come forward to receive the Holy Eucharist with thanksgiving, and before departing connect with a fellow parishioner to wish them a wonderful day? These God-inspired acts of love proclaim the beauty of the Gospel as clearly as does Holy Scripture!"

Initiatives of the Advisory Council include:

1) Hosting the information table on Sunday mornings, thereby giving parishioners a chance to meet the Council members and learn more about ministries and activities available to them.

2) Conducting a 2015 Parish-Wide Assessment with the goal of determining how best to help our parishioners in their journey as Faithful Disciples of Christ while also determining how to best provide a welcoming family atmosphere within our parish and church.

In 2009 an assessment was conducted which provided valuable insights that added guidance to our parish programs. Our Council plans to build on that foundation and seek deeper understanding.

3) An extensive safety review of the parish which resulted in detailed plans, improved signage with emergency safety tools.

4) Inspiring greater participation in the parish through the Envisioneering process.

5) Our Welcoming Committee offers a warm introduction to newly registered parishioners and helps them connect with others in the parish.

6) Our Social Committee embraced organizing more events that provide venues for all to participate in and connect with one another.

7) The Communications Ministry was initiated by the Council and provides this newsletter, the parish website, calendar, and more means of connecting with parishioners, clergy, and staff.

Besides these need-based initiatives, the council has often provided considered recommendations to our Pastor on many subjects that he has asked for guidance about.

Would you like to serve on the Advisory Council? Please consider attending the Council meetings to gain first-hand insight about the purpose. Contact any Council members to discuss your interest. More information is on the parish website, <http://stjoscup.org/advisorycouncil.php>.

The Parish Advisory Council helps our Pastor provide the faith community that we all seek.

The Legacy of Saint John Paul II

Witness to Hope

By Brother John M. Samaha, S.M.

He participated in all four sessions of the Second Vatican Council, and worked on the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*.

The most traveled pope in history, he covered 748,568 miles to visit his flock and engage the world.

He made five pastoral visits to the United States.

His apostolic visits to 130 countries made him the most well-known person of the late 20th century.

During his reign 87 countries established diplomatic relations with the Holy See for the first time.

He was influential in the collapse of communism in his native Poland and in other countries, and in the destruction of the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall.

He beatified and canonized more persons than his predecessors combined: 482 saints and 1,338 beati.

The Kernel of Christian Spirituality

By Brother John M. Samaha, S.M.

St. Athanasius the Great (+ 373) reminded us, "If you wish to live in the tradition, desire to be filled with the Spirit of God." The historical evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence in the past enriches us today only when we are living the life in Christ. This is exemplified in the often-quoted words of Orthodox Archbishop Ignatius Hazim to the World Council of Churches in 1988:

"Without the Holy Spirit, God is far away;
Christ stays in the past;
the gospel is a dead letter;
the Church is simply an organization;
authority, a matter of domination;
mission, a matter of propaganda;
the liturgy, no more than an evocation;
Christian living, a slave morality.

"But in the Holy Spirit the cosmos is resurrected
and groans with the pangs of the kingdom;
the risen Christ is there;
the gospel is the source of life;
the Church shows forth the life of the Trinity;
authority is a liberating service;
mission is a Pentecost;
the liturgy is both memorial and anticipation;
human action is deified."

New Lenten Panels for the Sanctuary

By Steve Hill

With the upgrading of the sanctuary last year, floor space on either side of the altar was reduced and decorations that rested on stands can no longer be used. This includes the traditional Lenten environment with a banner on the left or ambo side, and bare tree branches on the right side. Each of them was supported by floor stands.

On the left side of the altar, there is a ramp that nothing can be placed upon, and the right side has stairs that intrude on the former level platform. The solution is to utilize new panels that hang on the walls on either side of the crucifix.

Nina McBride, a new member of the parish, volunteered to sew new panels for the altar. Nina has become active in the parish quickly. In addition to taking on the job of making new banners, she joined the Young Adult Ministry and the 11:00 AM mass choir.

The colors of Nina's panels are purple and gray. Purple is the color of Lent and gray is the color of ashes. Nina is also making candle drapes for the altar candles and the ambo candle. The drapes will cover most of the brass candle holders, making the altar look more austere. During the Lenten season, the sanctuary has a plain look.

Each banner appears as if there are three panels with pointed ends, but it is actually a single banner. In a clever idea, the reverse sides of the panels are red for Palm Sunday.

Finally, Nina made the faux rocks placed around the baptism pool during lent.

Another ambitious parishioner, Zenaida Bailon, is going to purchase cloth for new green panels when she visits the Philippines.

Do you like to write?

The Communications Ministry needs writers for the quarterly parish newsletter, *The Flyer*. We are seeking people who would enjoy writing articles about the parish, including activities, the school, people profiles, ministries and committees. If you are interested, please contact us at communications@stjoscup.org.

The Parish Communications Ministry is dedicated to community building, coordination among parish groups and encouraging participation in parish activities by the dissemination of information to parish members, newcomers, and the larger community. The members participate in the creation of a variety of communications means including: the weekly parish bulletin, the parish web site, the bulletin board, newsletters, brochures, email groups, and community outreach

Parish Ministries Puzzle

By Lorinda Rodrigues

Solve each set of mixed up words, use the letters in the circles to form the solution at the bottom of the puzzle. Find the answers to the puzzle on the parish website (<http://www.stjoscup.org/newsletter.php>). Follow the links on the solution page to read more about this important part of the Parish.

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The above are just a few ministry examples of this:

Parish Calendar			
Wednesdays during Lent	6:00 pm	Church	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Fridays, Feb 20, 27, Mar. 6, 13, 20	6:30 pm 6:00 pm on 13 th	Church	Stations of the Cross, followed by soup supper
Mar. 6,13,20	12:15 pm	Church	Lenten Organ recitals
March 27	7:00 pm	Church	Parish Reconciliation
May 3	11:00 am mass	Church & CC	May Crowning followed by reception
Mondays	6:30 pm	Hall	Bingo
Tuesdays	2:00 pm – 2:50 pm	Comm. Center	Meditation with Sr. Dorothy
Wednesdays	7:15 – 8:45 pm	Rectory	RCIA
Wednesdays	12:15 pm		Eucharistic adoration
Thursdays	Noon	Comm. Center	Prayer Group
Thursdays	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Comm. Center	Bible Study
4 th Thursday	Noon	Comm. Center	Prayer Group
Saturdays	6:30 pm	Hall	Bingo
2 nd Sunday	12:30 pm	Rectory	Grief Support
Saturdays	6:30 – 7:30 pm	Young Adult Rm.	Young Adult Ministry
Sundays	10:30 – 11:00 am	Front of church	Video Lending Library
1 st Sunday	Morning masses	Comm. Center	Hospitality after mass – coffee and donuts

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The Flyer, with color photos, is posted on the parish web site.

Articles for the Flyer are welcomed from parishioners.

Contact the Communications Ministry with a topic before writing it, communications@stjoscup.org