



MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Solemnity of the Nativity
December 25, 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you very much for celebrating Christmas with us at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church. We are grateful for your presence, prayers, and support of our parish. I extend a special welcome if you are joining us for the first time, if you are visiting from any other places or faith traditions, or if you do not worship with us on a regular basis. Just as the shepherds were led to a humble stable in Bethlehem to adore the infant Jesus, so we have been led to be together at this time and in this place to sing with the angels: *Glory to God in the highest and peace to all people on earth!*

Perhaps you are wondering how we are progressing on the site development and construction of Our Future Home. I would like to take the opportunity to share with you some history of our parish as well as the timeline for the future:

- The Diocese of Orlando purchased 60 acres of property on Lockwood Boulevard (one mile north of CR419) in 2001 for the development of a parish in East Seminole County.
- During the Year of the Eucharist (2005), Bishop Thomas Wenski established our parish. Our first Mass was celebrated at the auditorium of Oviedo High School on April 24, 2005... the same day that our Holy Father, Benedict XVI, was installed as Pope in Rome!
- Our community began renting space at Lawton Chiles Middle School on October 15, 2005.
- After a period of intense strategic planning in early 2006, we discerned Our Mission: *Empowered by the Eucharist, we humbly commit ourselves as a welcoming community to grow in faith and share Christ's love through our joyful witness and selfless stewardship.*
- Our Facilities Team chose Hunton Brady Architects in Fall 2006 to develop a Master Plan and design Phase I buildings for our parish campus. CPH Engineers was selected to complete all aspects of site engineering for our project.
- The design, rezoning, and permitting process for our site was extensive and involved the Army Corps of Engineers, St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the City of Oviedo. This process spanned over three years. The final Development Agreement for our site plan was approved in June 2009.
- Our parish participated in the Diocese of Orlando *Alive in Christ* Capital Campaign in early 2008. Pledges of \$3.6 million (payable over a 5-year period) were received, the majority of which will be used towards the Phase I construction of our buildings. Financing for our site work and construction is provided by the Diocese of Orlando.

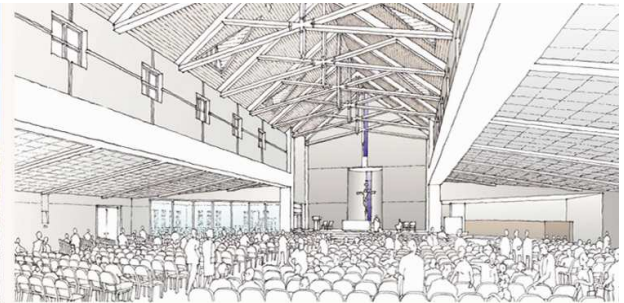


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- After a bidding process, Briar Corporation was selected to complete our site work in July 2009. The contract for the site work is \$3.2 million which includes clearing, the import of fill, and underground infrastructure for our developable land of 30 acres. Repayment of our site work loan will take place as our parish matures.
- Site work commenced on August 17, 2009 with the relocation of nine protected gopher tortoises followed by the clearing of 30 acres of land. Approximately 6000 truckloads of dirt will be imported to raise the site three to five feet. Completion of our site development is projected for Summer 2010.
- A Ground Blessing is currently being planned for mid-February 2010 to give our community the opportunity to visit our property for the first time. Please check our website, www.oviedocatholic.org, for updates as the date approaches!
- Bidding for the building construction of Phase I (Parish Life Center and Welcome Center) is projected to occur in early 2010 with the selection of a General Contractor shortly thereafter.



Parish Life Center- Exterior Rendering



Parish Life Center- Interior Rendering

- Phase I construction is slated to begin in late Spring 2010 and will take up to 12 months. We are hoping to occupy our Parish Life Center by Easter 2011. The Parish Life Center will include seating for almost 1000 people in the main assembly area. In addition, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel will seat 120 people.
- Future development on our campus includes an interparochial elementary school, John Paul II Catholic Academy. For more information and updates, please contact the Diocese of Orlando Office of Schools at 407-246-4900.

I hope that you will take the time to visit our website, www.oviedocatholic.org, for further information and updates regarding our Property Development. You will also find a complete listing of our vibrant ministries as well as opportunities for spiritual growth and formation. If you would like more information regarding our plans for the future, please do not hesitate to contact our Parish Office at 407-365-3231. A member of our staff or myself will be happy to assist you. The opportunity to be part of a parish from its early stage is a once in a lifetime experience, and I am very grateful to our parishioners for being part of our journey and embracing a pioneer spirit! Thank you for your generous support as we continue to build God's Kingdom together.

Your continued prayers this Christmas and throughout the New Year are appreciated. Please know that Fr. Jorge and I lift you and your loved ones in prayer each day. When you come before the Lord, please whisper our names to the Almighty. May you be inspired today and every day to live in joyful hope, and may we meet each day in our prayers!

In Christ,

Fr. Stephen

Very Rev. Stephen D. Parkes, V.F.
Pastor

