

***“Crossing the Finish Line”* Wrap-around Campaign for PLC, Courtyard & Balloon Payment**

Monsignor Gentili talk after all masses on January 28 & 29, 2017

Who in here watches NASCAR? **(Monsignor waves checkered flag)**

What does this mean? Right, crossing the finish line.

When it comes to our Parish Life Center and Courtyard, we're not ready to wave the checkered flag just yet. But now let's see who are our true NASCAR fans are.

(Monsignor waves the white flag)

What does this flag mean?

It's shown when the lead driver begins the final lap. And that's where we stand right now, we are in the final lap. Today, my goal is to provide you a brief update on where we are and to ask for your support to help us cross the finish line.

In your pews, you will find a pamphlet that reviews the benefits of the PLC. In the interest of time, I won't go through every single item but I will revisit the major reason why we've embarked on this journey and that is because of the tremendous growth we've experienced as a parish family over the past 16 years. This includes 60% growth in parishioners and 40+ active ministries. The PLC will provide us with the necessary office space and meeting rooms to realize our vision of being a vibrant, welcoming parish

family dedicated to growing disciples and making church matter. We anticipate completion of the PLC in May.

As our Parish Finance Council Chair Dick Clark detailed in his most recent financial update to the parish last summer, we have 3 significant near term financial needs:

- The first is completion of the PLC. Due to previously discussed circumstances beyond our control, the delay in ground breaking increased our costs;
- Secondly, we have a \$1.2 million balloon payment due on our \$12,000,000 mortgage for the church & chapel by June 30;
- Finally, we have the opportunity to complete the courtyard which will bridge the PLC with our beautiful church and chapel. Completing this now while the builders are still on site is the most financially prudent way to go.

Our Crossing the Finish Line goal total is \$1.5 million. A daunting number for sure, but I have good news to share with you today. Over the past several months we have been in the silent phase of this campaign and due to the generosity of 53 families, we have raised \$1.1 million leaving a gap of \$400,000.

Today, we humbly ask for your support to help us cross the finish line. As we will all benefit from the PLC, the courtyard and satisfying our balloon payment, we ask that everyone participates in this stretch campaign. The sense of urgency is great given we have to let the contractor know our intentions so they too can plan accordingly. While

we appreciate and will gratefully accept any and all pledges that go beyond the next 2 months, know that for cash flow purposes and completion of the courtyard, that donations received by March 31 are essential. Representatives from our Parish Campaign Committee will be in the Narthex to answer any questions you have.

Whether your gift is small or large, if we all pull together and give what we can I am confident that I will be able to stand before you later this year and wave the checkered flag! **(Monsignor holds up checkered flag as he closes out talk).**

Thank you for your generosity and most of all, your patience in waiting for our Parish Life Center to become a REALITY! I can't wait to host our first event in the courtyard and social hall.