



Dear Parishioners,

Please let me update you on our Of One Heart Campaign. As you remember, the goal of this campaign is threefold: to build the Monsignor Lara Youth Center; to eliminate the debt incurred in the church renovation; and to build a suitable nutrition center for malnourished babies at our sister parish in La Victoria, Dominican Republic.

I am happy to report that despite the economic challenges of the present moment, our campaign is doing well. \$4,311,855.42 has already been pledged, with \$810,230.28 already paid. Thankfully, the pledges are being paid right on schedule.

In January 2009 the Diocese of St. Petersburg Finance Council changed the diocesan policy on loans to parishes, as one response to the current economic climate. Each parish is now required to have 100% cash-in-hand before beginning any construction project. This obviously pushes back the time when we will start "shoveling dirt."

Desiring continued fiscal responsibility in these economic times, we have adjusted the "footprint" of our Youth Center to reduce sight costs and achieve maximum efficiency of the building. We believe we can do this and still maintain the intended use of the building, namely the gymnasium and good youth meeting space. Our goal is to keep the youth center total project cost below 2.5 million. With this in mind, construction shouldn't be too far off.

Another piece of good news: we've already reduced our renovation debt by \$200,000. Our current balance is \$830,142.31. This means we're paying less interest and we are able to use money saved on operational costs for the parish.

I've just returned from La Victoria. The selfless Sisters who staff the Nutrition Center want me to thank you and assure you that they are praying daily for the total success of the Of One Heart Campaign. They also pray daily for your intentions and are most grateful for your ongoing kindness.

It is an honor for me to be leading the parish in this important and historic campaign.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Proulx