A Letter from Father Barkett

My Dear Parishioners,

In 2001 our parish undertook the first step toward the construction of a new church and other facilities important to our Catholic mission of preaching the Gospel and caring for God’s people. I am very excited to announce that we are now ready to move forward with the next phase of our building schedule. As your pastor I am asking for your help as we take this important next step toward making our plan a reality. The Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future Capital Campaign will seek to raise a significant portion of the money necessary for this project.

This brochure will review the progress we have made and discuss upcoming steps in the next phase of our master building plan. Our efforts in building a new church not only address our present community, but it will also benefit future generations, as together we work on building God’s kingdom. I believe that in building a church we establish, not simply a space to come together in our worship of God, but more profoundly, a home where the very architecture proclaims the transcendental beauty and truth of God and, in turn, leads others to the faith we profess. Beauty showcases Truth, and with a beautiful House of God in which to worship and pray, our new church will continue to, not only help us to grow closer as a parish community in our relationship with God, but also give Him fitting honor and praise.

In Christ, through Mary

Rev. James S. Barkett
Pastor

Campaign Prayer

Loving God, At this time in the life of our Parish, we turn to you with grateful hearts for what we have, and with great anticipation for what is yet to be. Bless us with a sense of unity, a spirit of cooperation, and a generous heart as we face the responsibilities and challenges of this undertaking. We know there is much to do. We believe our goals are rooted in Your Word and in Your Work. Please guide us, strengthen us, and bless us with Your Presence, now and through the years to come. In Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.

“As each one had received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Pt. 4:10
Our History

In 1838, two Catholic families living in Fairfax, the Hamills and the Cunninghams, donated a tract of land to the Diocese of Richmond in hopes of having a church built and a Catholic cemetery consecrated. In the late 1850s, the Orange and Alexandria Railroad began to lay track westward from Alexandria and advertised for workers. Irish immigrants responded and ultimately settled at Fairfax Station. The priests of St. Mary’s in Alexandria took care of the Catholics in Fairfax.

In 1858 the Bishop of Richmond, Most Rev. John McGill, laid the cornerstone for the new St. Mary’s and designated it a mission of St. Mary’s in Alexandria. The church in Fairfax Station was consecrated in 1860. Not long after, the new church of St. Mary’s was caught up in the conflict of the American Civil War, being used as a field hospital during the Second Battle of Manassas. Clara Barton, who would go on to establish the American Red Cross, nursed the wounded soldiers in the church building.

Following the Civil War, jobs in the railroad and lumbering industries attracted large numbers of workers to Fairfax Station, including German and Irish Catholics. During the ensuing years, St. Mary of Sorrows experienced steady growth, moving from mission status to that of a parish. In 1980, in response to an expanding parish, a parish center, including a designated worship space, was built on Sideburn Road.

The need for a new church building and other continued expansion

Under the pastoral leadership of Fr. Donald Greenhalgh, the parish purchased the Mack property adjacent to the parish center. A capital campaign, titled “Continuing the Mission”, was undertaken in 2001, which enabled the parish to begin development of the Mack property. This included excavation, site-work, and the construction of additional parking and lighting.

Inspired by the calls for a New Evangelization, which will reach out to Catholics and non-Catholics and call them back to a deeper spiritual relationship with God, and with a desire to provide a more fitting place to honor and worship God, St. Mary of Sorrows is moving forward with plans to finalize the development of a portion of the parish property known to many parishioners as the Mack Property. This will include the construction of a new church building, which will serve not only to be the sacramental sign of God’s transcendent presence in the world and among His people, but also as a facility suitable to serve the current and future generations of Catholics residing in Fairfax. Furthermore, once the new church building is dedicated and opened for use, the current worship space will be renovated in order to provide the parish with more space for meetings, classes, and other parish activities.
The Master Plan

The Master Plan for the development of our total parish site includes the construction of a new church building to include, if possible, a finished lower level. Additionally, in recognition of the need for additional space, following the completion of the new church, the existing worship space will be renovated to provide room for meetings, classrooms, and other parish activities. Finally the Master Plan envisions that a new parish hall and a new rectory will eventually be constructed next to the new church.

Projected Cost Estimates:

- New Church w/lower level: $13.5M - $15M
- Renovations to current Worship Space: $500K - $1M
- New Parish Hall: $5M
- New Rectory: $500K
- TOTAL: $19.5M - $21.5M

Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future

The initial priority of the Master Plan is the construction of the new church building. It is the policy of the Diocese of Arlington that a parish has sufficient cash in hand for a building project, and be able to repay any loan that may be requested from DIAL Corp (Diocesan investment and loan) over a ten (10) year period. Once we are able to demonstrate our ability to afford the project, a loan can be requested to supplement the current cash on hand, allowing us to begin construction as soon as possible. Therefore, a follow-up campaign may have to be undertaken in the future to assist the parish with the cost of construction and/or providing additional support for loan repayment.

Our current capital campaign, Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future, will seek to raise a minimum of $5,000,000 with a challenge goal of $6,000,000 to go toward the total monies needed for the new church. The parish currently has $1,500,000 in the building fund. The funds raised in the current campaign added to the current cash on hand in the building fund will hopefully provide 50% of the cash needed, in hand, for the projected cost of the new church. The level of success in this campaign, supplemented by other sources of parish savings will allow the parish, in consultation with the Diocese to determine the final scope (i.e. with or without a lower level, etc.) and cost of the new church. Any loan needed from DIAL Corp will be determined at that time.

Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future financial breakdown:

- Building Fund – current cash on hand: $1,500,000
- Campaign Challenge Goal – to be raised: $6,000,000
- Potential Funds on hand in ~4 to 5 years: $7,500,000
- Projected additional fund needed: $6M - $7.5M
- (Additional fundraising and or loan)
- TOTAL New Church Building: $13.5M - $15M
How You Can Get Involved

Throughout the *Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future* Campaign, Father Barkett, the Capital Campaign Committee and volunteer workers will reach out to all members of our community to communicate the goals of our parish and describe how everyone can get involved. Several important events are being held in order to give every parish family an opportunity to participate.

1) Every registered family will be invited to attend one of a series of campaign receptions that will be scheduled to allow our parishioners the opportunity to gather as a family and to learn about the needs of our parish.

2) The families that do not attend a campaign reception will be able to read about our building plans through this campaign brochure, which will be mailed to their homes. These families will also be asked to consider all the information contained in the brochure and then make a prayerful decision about how they will support this effort.

3) Those who do not respond by Commitment Weekend will be personally contacted by fellow parishioners who will volunteer their time over several weeks for the success of the campaign. The volunteers, members of your parish family, will be giving their time to undertake the vital task of reaching out to parishioners and increasing the awareness of this campaign.

During this campaign, we are asking everyone who calls St. Mary of Sorrows home to:

1. Pray for the success of the Campaign.
2. Be an ambassador for St. Mary of Sorrows by getting involved and by sharing this information with as many people as you can with enthusiasm and encourage them to get involved.
3. Make your sacrificial pledge.

*Whether you participate by attending a campaign reception, responding at Mass or by mail, or by graciously receiving a parish volunteer into your home, it is your act of involvement that will make this campaign a success.*
How To Pledge Your Support

St. Mary of Sorrows would like to raise a minimum of $5,000,000 through the efforts of this campaign. Every member of our Community is integral to our success in reaching this goal, and, therefore, each family is asked to consider making a pledge to the campaign to the best of their ability.

Each family is asked to consider a pledge of only $4.11 a day or more over three years (or longer, if needed). This is $125 per month for 36 months. After a $500 down payment, this adds up to a total pledge of $5,000.

We Need Your Special Generosity

Everyone is asked to prayerfully consider how their generosity can reflect their gratitude for the gifts that God has given them. We know that a pledge of $5,000 will be a challenge for some of our parish households, therefore, it is vital to the success of our campaign that those who are able to make larger pledges do so.

Individuals who are financially capable of pledging $10,000, $25,000, $50,000 or more, are asked to step forward and become leaders of our campaign. Please review the Suggested Gift Plans on the following page and choose a plan that is right for you and your family.

In Deuteronomy 16:10 we are reminded that - “the measure of your own free will offering should be in proportion to the blessing the Lord has bestowed on you”.

Not everyone can make the same size gift, but everyone can make the same size sacrifice.

**SUGGESTED GIFT PLANS**

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The gift plans in this brochure are provided as a suggested guideline when considering your pledge.

**As You Make Your Pledge Please Remember,**

- Payments may be made over a period of three (3) years. *A longer period can be arranged if necessary.*
- Your campaign pledge is a restricted gift—to be used solely for the new church plans.
- Pledge payments are in addition to your regular weekly offertory contribution.
- Parishioners will still be asked to support the annual Bishop’s Lenten Appeal to support the good work of our Church both here in Fairfax and across the Diocese.
- Payment reminders and a special payment envelope will be mailed to you in accordance with the payment plan you choose.
- Pledge payments are fully deductible for tax purposes.
- Pledges are not legally binding, but rather an indication of your intention to donate.
- Please make checks payable to: St. Mary of Sorrows Church Building Campaign
How to Make Your Gift

**Pledges Via Cash or Check:** Simply complete your pledge card by selecting the amount of your pledge and down payment (optional, but encouraged). Make sure to select your method of payment, i.e., monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments. Please make checks payable to *St. Mary of Sorrows Church Building Campaign*. You will be mailed payment reminders and special payment envelopes in accordance with the payment plan you choose. Once completed, please return your pledge card in the weekly collection, bring it by the parish office or return it in the mail.

**Online Giving - Pledges Via Credit/Debit/Automatic Draft:** If you wish to make your pledge via credit/debit/automatic draft, please visit: [stmaryofsorrows.org](http://stmaryofsorrows.org). Locate the Parish Giving link to the right of the page and follow the instructions. In addition, please complete your pledge card by selecting the amount of your pledge and down payment. Make sure to select your method of payment, i.e., monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments and check the electronic giving box.

**Gifts of Stock:** Donors can use their own broker/agent or the parish agent to transfer and sell stock. If the stock has been held long-term (over one year), the donor does not have to pay capital gains tax on the stock, and is allowed a tax deduction for the full value of the stock. Donors may also choose to sell stock in order to claim a loss, which may be beneficial for tax circumstances. In either case, the stock must first be transferred to the parish before being liquidated. *Please contact the campaign office for more information.*

**Gifts of Property, Life Insurance, Annuities, Wills or Bequests:** There are different ways to support St. Mary of Sorrows both today and in the years to come via planned giving. Families or individuals can make gifts of real estate, personal property, automobiles, life insurance, estate bequests, annuities or charitable remainder trusts. For substantial gifts of property other than marketable securities, the IRS requires an appraisal. *Please contact the campaign office for more information.*

If you have any questions about the campaign or making your pledge, please contact the parish office, 703-978-4141 and ask to speak to someone concerning the campaign.
Your Pledge Can Be Given In Memory Or Honor Of A Loved One

Memorials are a special way of honoring the people we love, whether they are living or deceased. These memorials are often made for a special intention or in thanksgiving for blessings received from God.

All contributions to this campaign will be recognized on the Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future Memorial, to be displayed prominently in our new Church. By choosing a Memorial Gift, you will have the opportunity to make your pledge in the memory or honor of a loved one. This Memorial will serve as a lasting tribute to honor the sacrifices our parishioners generously made. The Memorial will display the name(s) of the person or family who made the donation and the name(s) of those they wish to be remembered.

Your Decision To Give

No one can tell you how much you should give. The individual parishioner/family is the only one who actually decides what to contribute, since the financial obligations of each family are different. What you give will be held in the strictest confidence.

This is our parish and only through sacrifice can we achieve our goals. All contributions from the smallest to the largest will be gratefully appreciated. Your decision is a personal one. It should be made in good conscience and in true Christian spirit.
People Who Make It Happen

Many people contribute to the life of our parish and provide vision for our future. Our deepest gratitude extends to those who have given the gifts of their time and talents to make this project a success.

Rev. James S. Barkett, Rev. Donald C. Greenhalgh (ret.)
Rev. Christopher H. T. Hayes
Rev. Jean Vanes Nicolas
Rev. Mr. Jeffrey M. Meyers
Rev. Mr. R. Marques Silva

Capital Campaign Committee
Finance Council
Pastoral Council

...and a very special thank you to the many volunteers of St. Mary of Sorrows

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