

Blessed Trinity Catholic Community

Fifth Sunday Ordinary time ~ February 8/9, 2020

Joseph Licitra, Chair Strategic Planning Team: REFLECTION AT CONCLUSION OF MASS

Introducing the Blessed Trinity Capital Campaign 2020



Over 20 years ago my family and I moved from California to The Bitterroot and found the community of Spirit of Christ where we were impressed by the vibrant and welcoming faith we found there and with that of Holy Family during our joint celebrations. As time passed and we settled in Missoula and were seeking a new church, we were invited to come to John the XXIII. Here we found that same vitality and felt welcomed to stay.

As I was reflecting about beginning this Capital Campaign, I was struck by all the different emotions that have surrounded all the work we have done over the last few years to get here.

It's clear that there is great passion here for this parish and the building. I thought about the people who helped make this building a reality; the money, the labor and the sacrifice that went into bringing this building, and more importantly this congregation, the people, the true church, to vibrant life. Not just here but at Holy Family as well.

There are still people here to tell the stories and I've heard several already. The planning, the struggles, the sweat, the new hopes for the future and ... even the head butting that must have happened. Those are the things that make this a sacred space. It's the people that make it holy. It's truly a space built with a foundation, not of sand, but of living stones; all of you here.

Not just the ones who have remained here from the start but those who have come since, those who have moved on and those who have gone before us.

We all share in this piece of the Body of Christ. It has served us very well and stands as witness to our faith. A faith that we are here to share, ready to welcome others to worship with us, to become part of our community, a part of our family, a part of this Temple of the Body of Christ.

As we move forward, with again, new hopes for the future, we revisit the stages it took to build in the beginning, the planning, the struggles, the sweat, and ... even the head butting.

But isn't that what makes us family? We can struggle and head butt and still love each other, even with seemingly opposing views. But in the end we all have the same goal, to worship God; to welcome new people into our family to worship with us; and to maintain our relations with those we hold dear already.

And if those people we love get a little tattered around the edges over time, we love them no less. Maybe it even endears us to them a little more.

It's no different for this building, a little tattered and we still love it. But the difference is we can fix the building but, not always our family members. We move forward to renovate our temple so it is

prepared to continue standing as a testament to our faith and discipleship and to make it more welcoming to new members who wouldn't immediately understand the charm of the tattered parts that endear us to it.

We want them to come and join the beauty of our worship and of our family. We want to show them that we are good stewards of what we have and believe in it enough to invest in it, maintain it, renew it and continue imagining how we can make it a brighter beacon to the world around us, to let our light shine and to be light for one another.

Next weekend after the 10am Mass, you are all invited to take part in a whole parish meeting with all the details about the Parish Capital Campaign that will allow us to continue to build upon the original foundation of living stones. An opportunity to renew not just a building but ourselves and our relationships as well, and with luck create some new ones in the process.

Also next week, there will be sign-up sheets in the back of the worship space, for several months, to join committees which allow all who want to become a greater part of the planning and discerning process to have input. The committees will help advise the Strategic Planning Committee and are an integral part in learning about the significance and importance of each topic.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the chair of the **MAINTAINRENEWIMAGINE** Strategic Planning Team and I look forward to continuing to listening to your ideas and hopes; and sharing and working with all of you as we enter this new phase of our renewal. Thank you.

