

## THE TIME HAS COME!

Dear Friends in Christ:

On February 6th, I announced to the parishioners of St. Henry Catholic Church in Buckeye, Arizona that we have begun the countdown that will result in the beginning of construction on our new parish campus.

In 2004, our former pastor, Fr. Charlie Gorieb, began preparing the community of St. Henry for the inevitable: a new parish complex located in a central location in what was becoming one of the fastest-growing towns in Arizona. 14 acres of land was purchased on 247th Avenue and Lower Buckeye Rd. just off Miller Road about one mile south of Interstate 10. In September 2005, the parish no longer fit in its present location on Sundays, and so space was rented at Sundance Elementary School off Yuma and Watson roads.

Nearly 6 years later St. Henry Catholic Church is still meeting at the school gymnasium on Sundays! We are on track to set the Diocese of Phoenix record for the parish that has spent the "longest period of time in exile!"

When I arrived in the summer of 2006, I immediately began surveying the situation – waiting for the "right time" to make the move forward as a parish. Constructing an entirely new campus is no small feat. Our local economy, based so much on the demand for housing, has made forecasting a rather difficult venture.

But now I tell you with conviction that the time has come!

We cannot deny the obvious: the parish is growing. Construction prices are at their best. The community of this parish needs stability and the House of God is central to that life of faith. It is time to build.

2011 then, will see us aiming toward and, if God wills, reaching (or surpassing!) our goal to raise \$1 million in cash and \$1 million in pledges before year's end. If we meet this goal, construction on our land can commence as early as January 2012. We could quite possibly enter our new location by Christmas 2012. This is our "best case scenario" and I truly believe that with trust in God, we can do it.

Just as Jesus told the weary Galilean fishermen who had caught nothing, "duc in altum" (Latin for "Put out into the Deep") I now come before you with the same cry: "Duc in Altum!" If you know what those fishermen-turned-disciples found after obeying Our Lord, then you can have the same confidence as I have that God will provide for all that we need. But He first needs our cooperation and efforts. Will you join me with the simple faith of the good people of St. Henry and put out into the deep? Let us begin. Let us pray:

O Lord our God, whose might upholds all creation, use our helpless hands and make this lowly church a place for the showing of Thy glory. May it be for all peoples a house of prayer pleasing in Thy sight. We pray Thee: Hear us and have mercy.

Fr William Kosco  
Pastor