

November, 2010

What a remarkable statement is made by the Philoptochos, the first among the many active ministries of our extraordinary parish to undertake a significant effort in support of the construction of our new Saint Demetrios church. In recognition of the central role of so many activities that bind us together in the every-day practice of our faith, the Philoptochos decided to host an extremely successful dinner dance celebrating Saint Demetrios' nameday and raising money for our new sanctuary.

240 parishioners enjoyed a wonderful evening of good humor, music, dance and the unveiling of the model depicting our new church. At the appropriate time, the amount of funds raised will be announced by the Philoptochos, but I can tell you, like everything else associated with this exceptional project, the results are fantastic. What does it mean when the members of the organizations that add a unique purpose to our church and our lives understand that their name must be commemorated along with all the individual donors - that this will render their unique service to our parish immortal.

And what does it mean when young GOYANs wash 70 cars in order to be able to raise and donate \$1,000 to the project. The youth are contributing not only the name of the institution of GOYA to be commemorated, they want to insure the future of our parish into the next century. For the clarity of their vision, and the example they have set for all of us, we thank them. The fullness of their hearts and the spirit and energy they put into the project is as inspiring to all as their gift.

For these efforts, and soon we shall be announcing more efforts on the part of our organizations for the benefit of the new church, we wish to express our deepest gratitude.

And to the six members of the Communications Committee who designed and printed the remarkable brochures you recently received and are creating a new website, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter presences; to the 26 members of the Finance Committee who have begun calling each parishioner to reach out in dignity to our parish; to the sixteen members of the Development Committee who have devoted countless hours to designer selection, construction manager selection, permit processing, survey and environmental engineer coordination, temporary worship space plans and preparation and more; to the twelve members of the Compliance Committee who literally have written the book on the control and safekeeping of the funding for this extraordinary project, and to Father Nick and Father Alex who in so many ways bless us with their vision and leadership and unending hard work, I want to thank you for an unbelievable achievement in our first organized year of progress in achieving the dream of all stewards of Saint Demetrios and wish you and all our inspiring parish a Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank you, Peter Bassett