



From the Pastor's Desk

Over the last few months, I've come to calling our church parking lot "the moon" because it has developed so many craters. Well, take good look and say goodbye to those craters because they are about to disappear forever. Yes, the work on our parking lots is about to start. The first contract for the church lot (Foster/Nottingham) is signed and we have applied for our permits. The work should begin soon. This is great news, but unfortunately not the full story. The work on this lot is going to cost us \$123,000.00.

You may remember a few years back that we thought we could do all our lots for around \$150,000.00. Well, things have gone up. There are new city requirements and the Archdiocesan engineers have added more areas to our original project that need attention and have to be taken care of. Instead of the original three areas, there are now a total of six paved areas to be addressed. The new areas added are those between our buildings on Mont Clare and between the school and Parish Office. If you have entered via our gym entrance you can see how bad this surface has become. This means that to accomplish all of this work we are going to have raise our ultimate goal up around \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00 more. Basically, we will need to keep our parking lot second collection around for a while longer.

There is some additional good news, though. We will be close to doing part (or maybe all) of the school lot (Nottingham/Carmen) work soon too. The two main lots should hopefully be done by September. As you may be aware that with all construction projects, what you first start out to do seems to always get bigger, more complicated and of course more expensive than you originally thought, planned for and agreed to. Thank you for all your support in this project. It's finally coming to fruition just not as fast as we would like.

Part II

Each summer, the parishes throughout the United States host missionaries from different missionary orders. Those whom have been around for a few summers also know there is a collection for Missions involved. We may become too cynical at times about the Church and money, but the purpose of the mission talks is not just "to get a collection out of us." We, as the Church, are called upon to spread the "Good News of Jesus Christ," the Gospel to all nations including our own. Most of us don't actively preach the Gospel to nonbelievers in foreign lands or needy areas. We do have those who accept the challenge to preach the Good News in our names. We commonly call them Missionaries.

The purpose the summer mission appeal is to enlighten us, to teach us and to help us to know how the Word of God is being spread so that we can truly feel a part of the missions. We seek to become a part of the mission work of the Church. Through the annual mission appeal, we move from being distant and detached to being involved and active in the Church's mission work.

Next weekend, the Sisters of the Mission House of St. Theresa from Puerto Ocopa, Peru will be joining us. Sister will be sharing a reflection on their mission work. On behalf of the people of St. Monica, I would like you to welcome the Sisters to our parish and extend our thanks to them for coming and sharing their reflections on the experience of preaching and the spreading of the "Good News" to the world.

The second collection next weekend will be for the missionary work of the Mission House of St. Theresa in Puerto Ocopa, Peru. Envelopes are being distributed this weekend and are at the entrances of the church today and next Sunday. If you were unable to give this upcoming weekend, feel free to make a donation in the regular collection on the following weekend. Please use the mission envelopes or mark a plain envelope "Mission Collection." Thank you for your generosity.

Fr. Fred Tomzik