

# Parishioner's Report: Fulfilling Hope Participation



CATHOLIC PARISH

*Fulfilling Hope*, Issue 2

May 9, 2009

Goal	\$13.5 Million
Total Pledged as of 04/30/09:	\$5,129,692.36
Number of pledges since September, 2008:	415
Number of voided pledges due to economy:	6 total, 8 partial = 14
Amount in pledges voided due to economic hardship:	\$138,703
Total Pledge status to date:	\$4,990,989.36
Total gifts received toward pledge-payoff to date:	\$636,279
% of Goal in pledges to date:	37%
% of pledge participation to date:	17% (of 2,450 members)
% of pledges from active mass-going population:	34% (apxm. 1,200 mass-goers)
Average pledge to date:	\$12,000 (payable over 5 yrs.)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am filled with gratitude to the many parishioners who have stepped up to the plate and supported *Fulfilling Hope*, our parish initiative to strengthen the presence of the Church in family and community life. Your generosity, unity, and prayer are a blessing. You are living God's word, namely, "[a]nd above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." (Col. 3:14.) I ask you to continue, united with one another and in prayer, while we advance *Fulfilling Hope's* primary mission: building a partnership of service and stewardship between the Church, your home, and your neighborhoods. I ask that you do not hesitate to get involved and get invested in these efforts.

I want to keep you informed of our progress toward the goals of *Fulfilling Hope*. It has three, namely, to construct the St. Joseph Ministry Center (a parish hall and grade school), to eliminate all parish debt incurred for the construction of the church, and to integrate fully the Church with families and neighborhood communities. The St. Joseph Ministry Center will help us to integrate family life fully with the parish and parish life fully with the family and neighborhood. OLOL, to fulfill its mission, in addition to our worship space, must have a place for everyone in the parish to be aided and educated in living fully our Catholic faith, including in the educational, social, economic, and political dimensions of our lives.

The big questions on everyone's minds are, "When will we get started?," "When will the hall be built?," and "When will the school open?" More than anyone else, believe me, I wish I could answer these questions. But I can't. The recession has hit everyone hard these past eight months. Some parishioners have had to reassess their giving, and we, too, together with the Archdiocese of Denver, have had to reassess our timing. Under the able leadership of our parish finance council we will monitor the situation and work to engage every resource of the parish—financial, brick, mortar, and especially pastoral, liturgical, and spiritual—toward these ends. I hope next fall, while monitoring the recession and responding pro-actively to it, and after the annual renewal of our stewardship and *Fulfilling Hope* ministries have taken place, we will be able to offer more concrete time-frames regarding our *Fulfilling Hope* goals to construct facilities, deconstruct debt, and reconstruct Catholic families and Christian neighborhoods.

I also want to announce that Phil Vottiero, who chaired our *Fulfilling Hope* efforts over the past 18 months, is now handing over his role to Lenny Best, our Director of Stewardship and Development in order for Phil to fully devote himself to his ministry as a member of the parish finance council. I am very grateful to Phil, his wife, Sherrie, and their children, for their leadership, counsel, friendship, support, and above all prayers toward making *Fulfilling Hope* successful. If you would like to reach Lenny Best for questions or to support *Fulfilling Hope*, you can contact him at the parish office - (303) 414-2267.

You will see from the figures reported above that the amount of monies pledged toward our \$13,500,000 goal is nearly 38%. This is a great start for a five year initiative, especially given the economic circumstances in which many of us and our fellow parishioners live. It testifies again to your generous trust in the Lord and your desire to advance the mission of Christ and of the Church. For your information, *Fulfilling Hope* booklets and pledge cards can be found at the Stewardship table in the narthex. Pledges can simply be sent by mail, or placed in the offertory basket at Mass.

I also want to report, too, on one of the more spiritual elements of the *Fulfilling Hope* initiative, an element which has come to be called, *Ecclesia Domestica, et ab Ecclesia Civitati*, a great Latin title that means, simply, *The Domestic Church, and from the Church Civilization*. Sounds great, doesn't it? The family, which is the domestic church, is the cornerstone of all civilization. Without the family, civilization and culture die. Since its inception in January, nearly 40 families have already invested in *Ecclesia Domestica* by participating in Family Night. Family Night takes place every second Thursday of the month.

We are also in progress of launching our neighborhood ministries which will facilitate the Catholic unity of our families in each neighborhood and provide opportunities for our parishioners to serve one another in both good times and in bad. The focus of this neighborhood ministry is on developing a more welcoming and integrated parish among families and in our neighborhoods. Already families in Heritage Eagle Bend, the Pinery and Parker area, and Saddle Rock have taken steps toward this end. You will be hearing more about this happening in your respective neighborhoods as it develops throughout the year.

These days of Easter at Mass we are reading from the Acts of the Apostles and learning about the life of the early Church, that is, the Church closest to Jesus before his crucifixion and after his resurrection. We read in Acts,

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

The key to this verse is, "The community of believers was of one heart and mind." As individuals we can come up with strategies and ideas for social and economic well-being. But without our unity as the Church and especially without Christ as the center and source of our well-being we are hopeless. Jesus' Church, the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church of which we are members and which each week we profess to believe, is increasingly important as the world struggles to identify proper responsibilities and solutions for the global dysfunction it faces in economics, justice, and culture. As Vatican II teaches in its *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Lumen gentium*:

Each individual layman must stand before the world as a witness to the resurrection and life of the Lord Jesus and a symbol of the living God. All the laity as a community and each one according to his ability must nourish the world with spiritual fruits. They must diffuse in the world that spirit which animates the poor, the meek, and the peace makers-whom the Lord in the Gospel proclaimed as blessed. In a word, Christians must be to the world what the soul is to the body.

Finally, I realize many organizations ask for your investment and involvement. Yet none are as important as your local parish and the archdiocese, which seek to help you to eternal life. During these months please respond generously in support of your Church's and parish's needs. You make it possible for Christ to be present in the world and for your brothers and sisters to grow ever more deeply in faith, hope, and charity.

With the assurance of my pastoral affection, I remain

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Father Ed".

Fr. Ed