

A short Report of the Building Committee

Through faith, hard work and determination, our parish continues to expand. Our church continues to grow and an increasing number of families are calling St. Alphonsa Catholic Church their home. Now, a holy task appears before our faithful parishioners as we embark on undertaking a new holy mission of the construction of our new church. Under the spiritual leadership of Mather Achen, our church members have been untiringly working towards this goal for the past two years.

The Building Committee consists of 53 members selected from different prayer groups to work towards this goal. This committee has always focused on cost effective yet factual opportunities to ensure minimal financial liabilities, capability of the community to support the construction, maintaining the strong relationship of members to each other. The Building Committee and the Parish Council actively performed the best possible ways to achieve this goal. In the past two years, we worked with Gordon Lawrence Construction Group to prepare our building plan. As a parish, we continue to seek every possible way to save money by modifying the church plan on several occasions to fit our financial needs. Initially, the plan was to have a connection building for classrooms. After careful research and consideration of a number of factors, including location, size, and style of building, it was discovered that the church building could be moved slightly without having making major changes to the geography of the land. Since there is a natural slope to the property, a partial basement of approximately 5,000-sqft can be built with the new church building. This change in plan will have a tremendous effect on cost savings. We are working with Quality Civil Designs for civil engineering services, who would provide the engineering design and construction plans with the idea of saving money as we utilize the 12 acres of land properly. Jose Kannukkadan, ManojKootapalli, and Paul Vellaringatt have been working with the engineers to ensure our building plan meet our financial goals. Recently, a meeting was held with the representative from the Gordon Lawrence Construction group with the Building Committee and the Parish Council members to discuss and share their thoughts on the new building plan.

The Executive Committee consists of 12 members and meets every 1st Sunday of the month. Building Executive committee worked sincerely and diligently in past two years to ensure to have cost effective plan for our new church. This committee was also responsible for overseeing the activities of fundraising and building committees.

The Fundraising Committee consists of 15 members and meets every 3rd Sunday of the month. The Fundraising Committee responsible of reaching out and coming up with fundraising ideas to find sufficient fund for the project. The Fundraising committee has been working meritoriously to raise fund for the new church building. Through various fundraising activities, we have raised approximately \$155,000 in the last two years.

An approximate cost of the building expected to be \$3.1 million. We are grateful to the members of the parish for the active support and contributions in funding for the project. Numerous fundraising activities have been already organized and in progress for the coming

months. This includes, Car raffles, Silent auction, KOC and Marian Ministry food sale, Coin jar collection, Stage shows, Crowd funding, and Amazon smile. We started our first initiative by having a silent auction that was led by Grace Savier and the Marian Ministry in 2015 by raising over \$5000. We also organized a musical night by Steven Devassy and RimiTomy in 2015. Through this event, we raised approximately \$38,000.

One of the major fundraising event of 2016 was the **Top Up auction (koottulelam)** conducted by the Fund Raising Committee. Unbelievably, this event was a turning point to our fundraising effort by raising \$82,000. The mini raffle organized early this year also very successful and we were able to raise \$25,000. Jojo Varghese and Sojan Varghese took the initiative to conduct this mini raffle. The Fundraising Committee is on the process of organizing a Car Raffle for the year 2017 and we have already received sponsorship commitment for \$17,500 from our own parish.

Still, the major source of the fund expected to come from the Parish Pledge Campaign. Our Building Committee and Parish Council have been working tirelessly to reach out our parish members for their continuous support on this task. Majority of the active members have already submitted the pledge. With the blessings from our Lord, continues support from the parishioners and the committee members we are looking forward to have blessing of the foundation stone and ground-breaking ceremony on December 18,2016.

God Bless,
Thomas Job
Secretary- Building Committee
St. Alphonsa Catholic Forane Church