

St. Anastasia Catholic Church Fund Drive Appeal

**EXCERPTS from the Homily
presented by Fr. Seamus O'Flynn
Pastor Emeritus, on the weekend of
January 16-17, 2010**



In the very familiar Gospel story of the Wedding Feast of Cana that we have just heard and which is so nicely portrayed in our stained glass window to my right, Mary, ever watchful mother, sees a domestic crisis looming ahead for the newlyweds. She said to Jesus: "They have no wine." Then she said to the servers: "Do whatever He tells you." They obeyed this instruction and Mary's prayer was answered, and the crisis was no more!

Today as we recall the generosity of Jesus and Mary, it is my privilege to make a special appeal to your generosity. We are launching the fund drive to build a new Parish Center. It is a time for asking, a time for generosity, a time to make a promise.

"Give to the Lord as He has given to you, generously according to your means. For the Lord is the one who always repays."

In our time together at St. Anastasia - going on 19 years - we have been blessed with outstanding growth. We had a little church and 17 acres; now we have this church and 57 acres. It's all yours and you earned it the old fashioned way, through your generosity - returning to God, through the church a good percent of your money, your time and your talent. Now is the appropriate time to take another great stride together.

The new building will consist of a large Auditorium, a Religious Education building and a Day Care Center.



The Auditorium will allow us to develop the social ministry of the parish community. We can cater for large meetings, dances, concerts, wedding receptions, exercise classes - any worthy event that invites people to share the joy of being with like-minded people. Remember, many people come to know Jesus not by someone preaching, but by a kind welcome extended to them at a social event.

The Religious Education Building speaks for itself. Our CCD program is growing and needs more space. R.C.I.A. & Adult education classes are more necessary everyday as our society becomes more secular.

The Day Care Center will bring many young families and their children onto our campus. At present all their day care needs are met at other places. With the little children and their parents coming to us for this service the likelihood of their becoming members of our Catholic community increases greatly. The center will be open to all families - our own, members of other

churches or people of no faith at all! Jesus said: “I came not to call the just, but sinners to repentance.” All are welcome in the house of the Lord.

Those of us who are old may be tempted to ask ourselves: “Why should I give to this building.” I won’t get much use from it. My answer to that understandable complaint is this; the older we get, the more we realize that life is really about giving. We give love and support to our families and friends forever! Age has nothing to do with it. By way of reminding us of this the Bible mentions tithing - giving back 10% to God - 40 times. It doesn’t say stop giving when you are 60, 70, 80, or 90!

A little boy watched an old man planting a fruit tree one day and he said to him: “Why are you an old man, planting a little tree?” and the old man replied: “All my life I have eaten fruit from trees I never planted. I have sat in the shade and listened to the breeze rustle their leaves. Now I am planting this tree so that others may enjoy fruit that was planted by me.”

You received the brochure two weekends ago. If you didn’t, ask an usher for one today. Last week you received a pledge form in the mail. If you are not registered please ask an usher for a pledge form as you leave church so that you can contribute. Please pray over it with your family.

Make a generous pledge, a sacrifice for our community. Return your form in the self-addressed stamped envelope. We need the help of everyone. Our seasonal visitors have always been very generous to St. Anastasia and I know that this year will be no exception. You can donate one big check or place your pledge in the gold envelope that will be in your package three weeks out of four. (1st, 2nd and 4th weeks)

God has said it in the Bible: “Let no one appear before me empty handed.” Our appeal goes out to the rich and the poor, the middle class, the adult and the child, registered and unregistered. “Unto whom much is given, from such a one, much is required.”

So that you may know and to give you good example, both Father Morgan and I will pledge \$10,000 each to the appeal and pay it over 3 years. God willing I will be 80 years old when I complete my pledge in 2013.

Stewardship Prayer:

***“Oh Lord, make me, a member of this family of faith,
an instrument of community building in my parish.
May I always be aware of your blessings and
thankful for the joy that comes from sharing them. Amen.”***



5205 AIA South, St. Augustine FL 32080-8006
Phone: 904-471-5364 Fax: 904-471-7448