



A BLESSED PAST  
A FUTURE OF  
hope

# [FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS]

## **Instead of a capital campaign, why can't we just reduce spending; ie. reduce staff and ministries?**

We budget \$15,000 per year for ministry expenses... Compared to parishes within our own diocese our staff would be considered small – the average parish uses 55 – 60% of their budget to go towards staffing, here at Santa Maria del Mar it takes up approximately 32%. I realize many people come to mass and may or may not have significant involvement in the community. I can tell you from being on the inside that our staff is stretched as far as it can go and beyond. Secondly, ministry today is about compassion, enthusiasm and competence. For example, to have effective formational music, youth and administrative ministries we need to have trained experienced personnel to allow the parish to grow in its response to the Holy Father's call for renewed enthusiasm in the new evangelization. It is very important to remember what the Holy Father has said, "the church is not a business." Jobs like maintenance and church receptionist are seen by the Holy Father as ministries. My experience has taught me that a parish's vitality can be radically increased by the work of trained professional ministers; on the other hand given the complexity of ministry today a lack of professionalism can be very harmful indeed.

When people tell me we have too many ministries my response is, "if the passion is inspired by the Holy Spirit the Pastor has a responsibility in faith to promote the parishioners response to God." In other words, ministries are called forth by the Holy Spirit. Each new ministry undergoes a discernment process with our parish council. If the ministry is harmonious with the Gospel and in benefit of the common good, our leadership gives them 100% support. To shut down ministries may mean to actually inhibit the movement of the Holy Spirit. The church becomes church when people are involved in relationship with Jesus Christ and his people. The parish therefore has a responsibility in faith to provide a generous atmosphere of receptivity to the passions of the people entrusted to us.

