

## August, 2010

Not long after you read this article in the September issue of the Vine, you will be receiving for the first time your pledge card that will invite you to participate in, without doubt, one of the most significant undertakings in the proud fifty year history of Saint Demetrios Church. This is one of the moments upon which our spiritual future will pivot.

It is fair to say, we are all aware that this moment has been coming. The moment when we must think carefully about the participation of each of our families in this grand undertaking and deliberate with our spouses, our children, our parents and grandparents about the real meaning of building our new church that will reflect the unbroken 2000 year Orthodox traditions that binds us all.

When we turn our gaze upon our young ones, what do we consider our Greek Orthodox parish will provide for them? What role do we expect our Church to play in their spiritual growth and development? What can they learn from observing us, their parents and grandparents, striving to build for the future of their faith? Will it strengthen them?

We all know instinctively the answers to these questions. I believe we also know, that like as those before us, we too understand certain imperatives: one being that we cannot leave to them the task of building a new sanctuary when the need is so apparent in our generation.

But can it be done? Yes! Each steward of our church must make a sacrificial gift – a gift that will reflect the significance of our church and faith in our lives. For each of us, there is an appropriate sacrificial gift in accordance with our means. We have all read the Gospel and understand the lesson of the poor woman whose small gift was the most generous of all because for her it was not from her abundance but from her heart!

There are over 600 families, stewards of Saint Demetrios Church, which have not yet pledged. The budget approved by the General Assembly is \$6.2 million of which over 47% is already pledged. We ask that you make your pledge payable up to three years in order to invite the most significant gifts that you and your family can make. Understood in this manner, it is abundantly clear that WE WILL DO THIS. Please make the most generous pledge in accordance with your means this month. On your pledge card, you may choose to be recognized or remain anonymous. Very simply, there is no charity that bears more directly on our lives than this once in a lifetime pledge towards building our new St. Demetrios Church.

Peter Bassett