

September, 2009

Another testament to the keen focus of St. Demetrios parishioners on the development of our new sanctuary were the smart, well considered comments and questions that they offered at the parish-wide design Charrette held on September 16th. The large turnout itself speaks volumes about how dearly we all hold this Orthodox parish and its new building.

Tom Gatzunis' Development Committee had prepared a presentation showing a comprehensive selection of new and old designs of Greek Orthodox churches that acted as a reference point and a jumping off point for our discussion, and thanks to Tom, Nancy Voudouris, and Chip Spilios for helping develop this presentation and carefully noting each and every comment.

Dean Calivas, Chris Papas, Peter Paravalos, Joe Santangelo, Wayne Soverns, George Scourakes, George Takoudes, and Charlie Theodore have had a very busy month of September too. They along with Nancy and Tom have devoted untold hours crafting the Request For Proposals that went out to qualified architects who responded in numbers, indicating their interest in submitting designs, by attending a "walk through" of Saint Demetrios held on September 15th. So far fifteen teams have indicated interest in submitting proposals in accordance with the schedule adopted by the Development Committee. Soon, Dr. Jim Skedros of Hellenic College Holy Cross will join the Committee, and Tom made a point of asking all those interested to contact him.

The Communications and Finance Committees are adding members too. Volunteering for Communications are John Baglaneas, Jim Speros, and Angelo Stamoulis. Saint Demetrios is blessed with incredible talent and these gentlemen along with Chris Papas and Father Alex have been strong assets already in establishing all the structure, exhibits, and systems a 21st century effort such as ours requires. All parishioners will see the results soon and on a continuing basis – even after we have moved into our new sanctuary! In the near future we will all learn about better, more efficient, and faster ways we will be learning about the manifold ministries and activities of our active parish – and ways we can communicate our needs as well. John, Jim and Angelo will be the first to say we need more volunteers. Please drop a note in the development box in the office or speak to any member of the Communications Committee, Fathers Nick and Alex or me in church.

Arthur Grontzos, Ari Haseotes, Tim Marken, Chip Spilios, Art Stameris and I are early volunteers to work on the Finance Committee. With Father Nick's blessing and careful guidance, we embark on a fund raising campaign that will succeed because it will include every parishioner in our Orthodox tradition. We each will give in accordance with our means and every single donation is a blessing that we leave our children and grandchildren as our parents' and grandparents' great generation has left for us. Please help us fulfill this promise by joining the Finance Committee! Your ideas and commitment to work with individual parishioners as well as church organizations to develop ways in which they can participate will, like the other committees, depend on the incredible talent and will of our Saint Demetrios family. There are events to plan and execute, exciting ways to open the door to even our very youngest and oldest alike. Above all, one theme seems to be apparent throughout all our work to date – we're having an incredible amount of fun! Our spirits are running high and each volunteer to date has been an inspiration.

Come and join us. Be part of the fun of helping donors, raising funds and building the future. It takes such fun to make the memories.