

## September, 2010

During the second week in October, you will be receiving a very significant package in the mail. It will represent a precious affirmation of the faith we share in the future of Saint Demetrios Church and of Orthodoxy in America. Your package will contain a beautifully designed brochure premiering elements of the design of our NEW CHURCH. Also included will be a dramatically new pledge card that represents the road to the fulfillment of this new vision and 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.

We all know this moment has been coming. The moment when we are asked to gather as a family to read the Brochure, unfold the Pledge Card and discuss together our pledge to the future of your Saint Demetrios and the generations of your family that it will serve.

Before sending this extraordinary package to you, your Building Committee has quietly sought and received pledges totaling almost half of the project budget voted at the Special General Assembly. An extensive architect selection process has yielded the beautiful design you will see depicted in the brochure. All this has been accomplished PRIOR to asking you to make a pledge. Why? To assure you our common dream can be fulfilled. To assure you that your pledge is at once a necessary step along a path that is set. To offer a way for you to participate with your SACRIFICIAL GIFT in this once-in-a-generation dream-come-true. How can anyone experience the rising of solid new walls and the placement of a stunning new dome and cross without seeking to play a role that will be recognized permanently and for generations to come?

In the September issue of the Vine, we discussed a number of important gatherings and events giving parishioners the opportunity to reflect on our glorious past and celebrate our bright future: our last liturgy in the current sanctuary, the ground breaking and the laying of the cornerstone of the new church, the “topping off” of the structural steel of our new dome and the placement of the cross atop the dome, and obviously opening the doors of our new church. Soon, you will be learning the specifics associated with the first of these events. On this momentous occasion, will you not feel proud to have made your pledge by October 30<sup>th</sup> and stand as a co-author of the great new future of our church?