

Volunteer Profile: Sylvia Zachmann and Blanca Vallejo



As lifelong parishioners of San Francisco Javier Parish, sisters Blanca Vallejo and Sylvia Zachmann were raised to support the church.

Their parents were active parishioners, and their grandparents helped build the original church. The sisters have followed suit by becoming involved in sharing their faith. “We’ve always worked in ministry together,” Blanca said. “We’re a close-knit family.”

Having witnessed firsthand the growth in new families at San Francisco Javier, and the need for a larger church, the two readily agreed to serve on the parish’s campaign committee when their pastor asked. “We are so much in need of a new church,” Blanca said. “We have just outgrown this one.”

While Sylvia is sad to say goodbye to the church she and her sister grew up in, she accepts that such immense growth brings change. “It will be nice to be able to have a church where everybody can fit at one time,” she said.

As campaign volunteers, the two attended weekly meetings, prayed over their own gifts to the campaign and then talked to their fellow parishioners about contributing. They found those they spoke with about *Encountering Christ* were receptive because they shared their excitement for a new San Francisco Javier Church.

“The campaign is a really good mission, not only for our parish but the diocese,” Sylvia said. “I hope that the campaign helps bring people together and helps the diocese grow more spiritually.”

Knowing that the parish will receive additional support from the diocese through the campaign is consistent with Blanca’s belief on the importance of giving back. “God gives us so much that the more we give, we receive,” she said.