

Volunteer Spotlight: St. Peter the Apostle's Campaign Executive Committee



When health issues required Father Ruben Patino to scale back on his duties at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, the Campaign Executive Committee continued his work and helped the Horseshoe Bay parish raise 113 percent of its Encountering Christ goal.

“That’s the miracle and that’s the beauty of community — when that community can act like one, even when some of its members are missing,” said Frank Trogus, campaign co-chair with Ed Wenzel.

“The group that Father put together really worked together in his absence,” Ed added. “We nudged the campaign forward.”

When Father Patino was unable to be physically present, he continued to be active in campaign decisions and encouraged the committee’s progress. In addition to meeting with their fellow parishioners, committee members took turns delivering campaign messages at Masses and leading the congregation in the campaign prayer.

The committee decided to focus as much on participation as meeting the parish goal. “We always talked about prayerfully considering just participating and if you decline a financial gift, you can participate by praying for us,” Ed said.

Nearly 40 percent of parish families pledged their support to Encountering Christ, but he estimated that the number of parishioners praying for the campaign doubled that number.

St. Paul the Apostle is directing its share of campaign funds toward expanding the parish, both to repay debt incurred from completed facility expansions to better meet the congregation's needs, as well as to begin the project's third phase. Those Encountering Christ funds will allow for the addition of a narthex, confessional, reconciliation room, sacristy, increased seating areas and much-needed restrooms.

Frank stressed that the entire parish community led to the campaign's success, not only the Campaign Executive Committee.

"It was truly an amazing effort of community," he said. "This was truly the work of the Holy Spirit."