

July 2, 2010

Dear Parishioners:

Last spring St. Francis School was closed for a few extra days around the Presidents' Day holiday so that engineers could carry out some maintenance and safely perform a seismic safety inspection of the school.

We expected to find some issues—it's a 90-year old building, after all—but what we found was much more serious than we anticipated and we wanted to bring it to your attention as soon as possible.

The long and short of it is that St. Francis of Assisi School has some serious seismic safety and structural engineering issues that have to be addressed, and that these problems are severe enough that we need to close our campus on 25<sup>th</sup> Street and temporarily move the school to another location. The engineers estimate that the repairs will cost \$3 million to \$5 million.

In our time of need, however, another parish here in the Sacramento area has stepped forward to offer our school a hand.

All Hallows Parish, located in Tahoe Park, has offered us the use of their school facilities, which were closed at the end of this last school year. Fr. Oscar Gomez-Medina and the parishioners there have agreed to provide us with temporary quarters while we make plans for the long term future of our school. We cannot thank Fr. Oscar and the parishioners at All Hallows enough for the sacrifices they are making on behalf our school and our parish.

Parish activities also are affected by this seismic situation. The parish uses the school for the Religious Education of our young parishioners as well as for meetings, classes, and social events throughout the year. Again for the safety of our children, Religious Education will have to be conducted in the Parish Center. We are presently investigating the availability of Brunsman Hall for adult usage, but that has not been determined at this time.

Where do we go from here? This question can only be answered through a discernment process that includes all the immediate stakeholders involved. Bishop Soto fully understands and agrees with this discernment process and asks that we present our conclusions to him within a year.

Communications concerning this process also will need to be a high priority. It is certainly appropriate that the Parish Council be actively involved in this discernment process and together with them we will be keeping you informed.

For the immediate future, we need to focus on relocating the school and coming up with a discernment process. School is scheduled to open on Aug. 24th. If you would like to help in some way with the relocation of the school, you may contact the school by emailing [principal@stfranciselem.org](mailto:principal@stfranciselem.org)

The school community needs our prayers and support. We also need to hold All Hallows Parish in our prayers out of gratitude for their flexibility and openness in accommodating our need at this time.

I will be consulting with parish leadership and staff over the next few weeks to create a process for discerning God's will for us at this time.

Fr. Anthony M. Garibaldi, OFM  
Pastor