

Dear Ascension Family,

We wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the progress of our building plans and our capital campaign over the summer.

### **Our Building Plans**

Over the summer, under the guidance of our Construction Committee, and as a result of the extensive work done by our new architect, Bill Kokalias of Axios Architects, we solicited bids from eight general contractors based on fifty percent (50%) completed drawings. We have received bids from and are working with two of those contractors to better value engineer our project and move to 100% drawings. This process is likely to involve further refinements to our plans, as we proceed with the present and future needs of our Parish in mind. We will continue to update you, particularly if any of the additional refinements should lead to a material change to our design that the Construction Committee and the Parish Council will wish to pursue. Once that process is completed, we will request final bids from these two contractors and then, determine the winning bidder and move forward. In the meantime, we are identifying building and related permits. To assist us with this bidding and permitting process, and guide us through the construction process by working directly with the general contractors so that we speak with a single voice, we have retained Structures Construction LLC (Constantine Furlas and Tim Loucopoulos) as our owner's representative.<sup>1</sup> We are excited and encouraged by all of the progress we have made, which also has led to a reassessment of our actual start date for construction. Presently, we are looking at a start date for construction in April, 2017, following Pascha.

### **The Capital Campaign**

In January, with Father's blessing and support, the Capital Campaign Committee launched the 2016 Capital Campaign to raise \$5.4 Million to fund the construction of a new Church Building and a renovated Community Center. Both the Capital Campaign and Construction Committees have been hard at work, coordinating the process of moving forward with our project. Although two separate committees, the members of both committees communicate with each other to ensure that the scope of the project remains within the budgetary guidelines on which the fundraising goal was created.

Our fundraising goal was initially based on professional estimates of the construction cost, and the cash on hand in the Building Fund. With a total net construction cost of \$7.5M, and \$2.1M on hand, our net fundraising goal was \$5.4M. As of October 13th, we have received \$2,827,138 in pledges from 107 families. This amount, plus the \$2.1M net cash on hand from 141 prior campaign supporters fundraisers, and other capital donations, brings us to a total of \$4,927,138 (66% of goal reached). This is great progress, but we have not yet reached our goal.

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<sup>1</sup> As we have relayed before, Bill Kokalias, in becoming our new architect, has done so through his love for the church and has worked with the Father and the Construction Committee to improve the design of our project, at a significantly discounted fee, so as to better suit our community and our budget. Structures Construction LLC also has provided us with the fee concessions and discounts. We are grateful for Bill's, Constantine's and Tim's philotimo.

- **Remaining Naming Opportunities**
  - o Berms (\$50,000)
  - o Fellowship Hall, Gallery & Kitchen (\$250,000 each),
  - o Nave & Dome (\$500,000 each)
  - o Community Center (\$1M)
- **Prior Campaign Donors-** Thank you for being the “initial supporters!”
  - o Thank you to these families who ALSO pledged to the 2016 campaign, thereby increasing their total commitment to the project.
  - o Please consider ‘increasing’ your ultimate pledge by completing and submitting a pledge card for the 2016 capital campaign.
- **2016 Campaign Donors –** Thank you!
- **100% Participation Goal –** We seek 100% participation of our Parish, only at a level at which that donor is comfortable. The committee, along with Fr. Sotirios, wants everyone in the Ascension Parish to feel and know that they are part of this community and project, no matter the amount of the contribution.
- **Visit our website to see the List of our Supporters...**
- **The Ascension Legacy Gala** - Saturday, February 4, 2017 at the Lincolnshire Marriott. This event is not only a fundraiser, but a ‘*celebration*’ of the progress we will have made towards breaking ground on this project. The fundraising goal is \$250,000, which if attained, will be matched by an anonymous donor, making the total for the event at least \$500,000! Even without the incredible generosity of our anonymous donor, it would stand to be a night of wonderful celebration of “*Our Faith, Our Church, Our Legacy*”.
  - o There will be a commemorative book for the evening, please visit [www.ascensiongoc.com/gala](http://www.ascensiongoc.com/gala) for information on the event, including opportunities for recognition and support through advertisements.
  - o We thank our Philoptochos members who graciously have allowed us to host the Gala on the night they would have hosted our Glendi. We’ll all look forward to the Glendi in 2018!

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All of our progress to date brings us closer to our goal of building our new church. We will continue to keep you informed as events unfold, but we need the help and support of our entire Parish to realize our goal. Please visit <http://www.ascensiongoc.com/aboutus/capital-campaign/> to print a pledge form and make your contribution.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Capital Campaign Committee