

November 15, 2016

Dear Parishioners:

In last month's letter I said that the pipe organ was ready to be installed. Walking into the Church you can immediately see that it is indeed installed, but you haven't heard a sound from the organ. For several weeks representatives from the Schantz Organ Company have been tuning the organ. This is a long tedious process, for the pipes need to be tuned, one by one. And there are over 2000 pipes! The organ won't be ready until Advent.

Because of the close connection of the organ with the music and song for liturgical services and popular devotions, an organ should be blessed before being played for the first time in a liturgical celebration. Bishop Oscar Solis, Auxiliary Bishop for the San Pedro Region, will preside at the ceremony on Sunday, December 11, at 2:45 p.m. This will be followed by a concert at 3:00 that will highlight the new organ. It should be an impressive event as we hear the grandness of the music that only an organ can provide. From then on you will hear the organ at Sunday Masses, weddings, funerals, and other events.

My thanks to those hundred plus people whose donations to the organ made it possible. Special thanks and recognition are due to Grant Hungerford, our parish music director. He oversaw this project from the very onset. It began even as the church was in the design phase. He worked with the architect, the church building committee, the acoustician, and the organ company to create a musical instrument that was fitting for the new church and the parish. He headed the committee to raise the funds necessary to build this magnificent instrument. The budget from Campaign 21 did not allow a pipe organ, but Grant felt that, rather than installing an electronic organ on an interim basis, he would rather have the church without an organ for a while. It would be more effective to get the support if people experienced the lack. Grant was right! His vision and leadership has given St. John Fisher Parish a legacy for the ages. We should all be thankful to him.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving and a holy Advent.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor