



Message from the Rector

Dedication of Ministry Center 8 December 2019

Dear Redeemer Family:

By God's grace we have reached this wonderful moment in our life together! We gather today, with our Bishop, to dedicate the Christian Formation and Ministry Center to the glory of Almighty God.

This wonderful occasion is the culmination of more than a decade of prayer and preparation. Hundreds of persons have volunteered thousands of hours of their time to make this day possible. More than five hundred people have pledged to our long-term, three-phase capital expansion. Without all three – prayer, volunteers, and pledges – this day would not be possible.

While I do not have room in this bulletin to thank everyone individually, I must thank some among us who have given of themselves so freely and sacrificially to make this possible. First, I want to thank Andy Dorr, Chairman of the Capital Projects Committee, whose vision and determination brought us to this day. I want to thank the many wardens and vestries who made this project a top priority for our common life. Bill Mudgett, our current Senior Warden, and Janet Trefry, our Junior Warden, have been hugely supportive and engaged, and they deserve our thanks. My thanks also go to all the many strategic planning groups in the parish who have studied our need for additional space over the last ten or so years, especially Forrest Bogart for initiating those conversations. I am thankful to Bob Morris, who chairs our ongoing capital campaign, "Christ is Our Foundation," and to Fr. Charleston, who has worked closely with him. All of your clergy, full-time and retired clergy in-residence, deserve our thanks for their contributions. Fr. Chris Wood and Jacki Boedecker did a great job envisioning a way to utilize fully the new spaces for formation in the coming days. Tim Hensey and Gilbane Construction Company have been excellent partners. Patrick Poehlman and Alex McIntyre from Gilbane have been here every day, ensuring the work was done professionally and safely. Our architects, Javier Suarez and his son, Javi Suarez, did a tremendous job designing a modern facility that extends and preserves many of the architectural elements we all associate with Redeemer. Ellen and Stan Neimi helped to make the wonderful Celtic Cross a part of this project. My thanks go to Dora Thomas, who has chaired the capital campaign finance committee. Lorraine and Lee Holden and Beth and Ernie Cave did a fantastic job building a team of volunteers and securing many gifts to the capital campaign. Russ Ryan and Angela Ward worked with the Caves to bring essential support to their efforts, and I thank them. I am grateful to Beverly and

Brigham Clegg, and their team, who have been praying every day for the project. Diane Muhlfield and her team did a great job creating and sharing the news of the project. Holly Dennis, our interior designer, made excellent choices. I am grateful to Katie Hollingsworth, who chaired the Memorials Committee, and I'm also thankful to her team for finding meaningful ways permanently to remember loved ones through naming opportunities. Some of those still exist (talk to me, Bob Morris, or Fr. Charleston to learn more). I am continually impressed by and grateful to Tom Younkman and his landscape associates. John Mercurio, who surely is smiling on us, deserves posthumous recognition. He championed all things Redeemer as our Treasurer. Our Chancellor, Mike Hartenstine, has consistently made contributions towards the project. Fr. Mario Castro and the One O'Clock Mass team have shepherded multiple fundraisers to benefit the effort. MaryPage Hill, and the Finance Committee, have been incredibly engaged, and I am thankful. Charly Schugg, Gussie Haeffner, George Mims, Brigham Clegg, Jody Maxwell, Kraig Koach, Andrew Morse, Todd Morton, and Pat Fitzgerald have all been instrumental in their roles as Senior Wardens over the past decade. Liz Alpert, the most recent Mayor of Sarasota, was a great help, and the City Commission is supportive of our mission in the heart of the City. And the list goes on.

Every member of the Redeemer staff has contributed to the success of this project in his or her own way, and I want to thank them. My Executive Assistant, Valerie Dorr, worked many extra hours to bring the overall project to completion. Steve Wernet, our Facilities Manager, and his team of Sextons did a great job keeping our daily round of activities going during construction. John Walsworth, our Business Manager, had the task of keeping the financial side in order, and he did a great job. Others on staff, like Ann Stephenson-Moe and Dan Carlidge, have been constant supporters, and they are looking forward to Phase Two, which includes a much-needed renovation of music spaces.

I know I must be forgetting to mention many people who deserve a word of thanks. That is the danger of thanking people by name in any medium. If you are one of those persons I have neglected to mention today, please forgive me. The fact is that so many persons have been part of this over the years that the list could go on forever. And that is what makes Redeemer so special. We have an active, growing parish, and our hearts should be incredibly full today.

Thank you one and all for your prayers and presence here today.

May God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Fred" with a small cross symbol at the end.

The Rev. Fredrick A. Robinson, Rector