



Our Lady of Guadalupe

# Building FOR OUR Future

THE NEXT 50 YEARS CAMPAIGN

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

January 26, 2011

### Our new Parish Life Center/Gym



### Dear Friends,

As of this week, almost five out of ten parish families have pledged to the ***Building for Our Future Campaign***. As I mentioned in the homily over Martin Luther King weekend, it is always more difficult to finish a major commitment in life than to start, but I am confident we will finish.

I pray that all of our parish members will follow the lead of other parish families and contribute to the campaign. If they need even more inspiration to do so, they can read about one family's "gift from the heart" in the first e-newsletter item below.

I am deeply grateful to all of you who have already pledged. **Thank you!** We are getting closer to our vision every day.

In Christ,

**Father Jack**





## One OLG family's story

***Parishioners give to the campaign  
"with love" toward a vision of building  
an even stronger community***

Zekariase Woldselassie and Alem Theklu went to church every day in Ethiopia. It was more than a place to pray. It was the center of their community - and their lives.

"We had a place where we could gather together, play volleyball or hide and seek, study the Bible, meet with the priest and sisters. It is such a wonderful way to live," recalls Alem, who came to the United States with her husband in 1996, leaving their baby daughter Bethel behind while they built their new life in Seattle.

She and Zach struggled with the language, the culture, finding work. But one thing was easy: becoming part of the Our Lady of Guadalupe community. "OLG welcomed us with open hearts," Alem says. "We belong. It's our home. It is a beautiful community full of beautiful people."

"This home fulfills us," adds Zach.

**Read more about Zach and Alem at [www.olgfuture.org](http://www.olgfuture.org).**

## It's official! Our building plans move forward

Have you noticed something new along the street on 35th Avenue Southwest? It's the first official sign that the new Parish Life Center/Gymnasium is taking shape. Yes, we are moving forward... but we are still short of the necessary funding to ensure that construction can begin this June. The next few weeks are critical as we hope to secure pledges from those parish families who have not yet supported the campaign.

The Building Committee is hard at work planning various elements of the new building. We have assigned subcommittees to examine everything from electrical systems to landscaping to environmental elements to kitchen facilities to the gymnasium floor. Building Committee members are already visiting other parish facilities, community centers and gyms to get ideas for what our new building should include. Over the next few months, we will ensure that there are opportunities for everyone in the parish to weigh in on the features they hope to see in the Parish Life Center/Gym. In the mean time, don't be shy about expressing your thoughts by emailing us at [campaign@olgfuture.org](mailto:campaign@olgfuture.org).



## Welcome to our new campaign coordinator

Local fundraising consultant Sue Wilkes is now taking on day to day coordination of the ***Building for Our Future Campaign*** on a part-time basis. As the executive director of the Refugee Women's Alliance, Sue shepherded the nonprofit organization through a successful \$2.5 million capital campaign. In her role as a consultant, she assisted Neighborhood House with its High Point Center and Rainier Vista Center capital campaigns. Among the other organizations with which she works are several statewide and local social justice and ethnic community groups. Sue is married and has three elementary-age children.

***Welcome to the OLG campaign, Sue!***



## Bishop Tyson writes to school families

Letters sent from Bishop Tyson to OLG school families earlier this month praised the parish for its leadership and outreach and issued a call to action for supporting the ***Building for Our Future Campaign***.

"You stand at the top of the highest hill in Seattle with the visual reminder of the beauty of God's world, and you show your gratitude through your actions in serving the needs of your children, your community, and the world," the Bishop wrote. "Your outreach work as a school community has been exemplary, serving as a model for schools across the Archdiocese."

To those families who already had contributed or pledged, Bishop Tyson offered his thanks. To others, he urged, "Please prayerfully consider your pledge and open the door to your future, and the future of Our Lady of Guadalupe."

"Your participation in this drive enables us to gain the momentum we need toward a successful campaign, and will result in a facility that will enable you to expand your good works and build an even stronger community," Bishop Tyson said.

## OLG takes center stage in Catholic NW Progress

The December 9 issue of *The Catholic Northwest Progress* included an in-depth article on Our Lady of Guadalupe, focusing on our history, our vital place in the West Seattle community today and our future plans for the new Parish Life Center/Gym. The article included interviews with Father Jack, Principal Kristin Dixon, Pastoral Associate Peg Borkowski and long-time parishioners Norene Saldana and Harry and Gloria Langen. We were honored to be featured in this widely-read publication for the Seattle Archdiocese!

Read [page 1](#) and [page 2](#) of the article.



### Do you have questions about the campaign?

We want to hear from you! Please call us at 206-935-0358 or us at [campaign@olfuture.org](mailto:campaign@olfuture.org) with any questions you may have. You can also learn more on the campaign website at [www.olfuture.org](http://www.olfuture.org). Thank you for your interest and support!

Help us save the environment and save money – sign up to receive this newsletter via email by sending your contact info to [campaign@olfuture.org](mailto:campaign@olfuture.org). Thank you!