



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we prepare for Advent, I am eager to share exciting news regarding the future of St. Mary Catholic Parish. On Nov. 15, lay representatives will accompany me for a presentation before the Project Financing Review Committee (PFRC) of the Archdiocese of Denver. This board will consider our request to proceed with a capital campaign to address the various overdue maintenance and renovations issues on our campus that we talked about and gathered feedback on during the town hall meetings over the past summer. With the blessing of Archbishop Aquila already given, I expect to receive project approval.

We reached this point through detailed planning, which included hiring an architect and then a fundraising consulting firm to test the pulse of our faith community. It did not surprise me to learn of your support and I am grateful for your faith in me to lead this project. There are many elements in this campaign, all the way from a maintenance fund to improvements in some of the buildings. We identified these elements during the process of the town hall meetings and the survey performed by the Steier Group for the feasibility study.

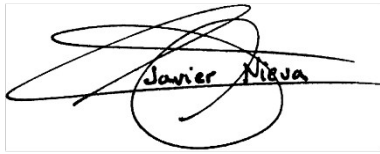
One important piece of the campus renovation will occur in the nave and feature relocating the choir loft from its current location. In a conversation with Archbishop Aquila, he has given his full support to this idea. As the document of the Catholic Bishops in America, *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship*, states: "The placement of the choir should never crowd or overshadow the other ministers in the sanctuary nor should it distract from the liturgical action."

The focus of any Catholic community is the presence of God in its midst, particularly in the sacraments. That is the reason that we are specifically reflecting on the sacraments of Christian Initiation during this program year. However, the sacraments are not only a way in which God is made present in our souls, but they also require a worthy liturgical celebration. And, among the sacraments, the veneration of Holy Eucharist and the celebration of the Holy Mass have a central role in our community as stated in our Mission Statement: "We are a community centered in the Eucharist."

Therefore, improving our spiritual development rests on us going back to the foundation of our Catholic faith by recognizing and honoring these critical elements of the Mass. I realize that some may question the need for this project and other changes in the temple, and I respect their opinion. However, as the plan becomes reality and their faith and love for Jesus grows, I pray they will come to appreciate and support the decision.

With the PFRC meeting a few weeks away, I ask for your prayers and encourage you to prepare yourself spiritually as we work to renew our faith. Please welcome this opportunity in the spirit of our campaign theme: *Celebrate the Sacraments: A New Beginning for the Family*.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Javier Nieva". The signature is stylized with a large, loopy "J" and "N".

Fr. Javier Nieva, DCJM,
Pastor

P.S. You can expect to learn more of our plans in the coming weeks. I pledge to keep you informed throughout the process.