

Dear Parishioners:

In 1908 Tracy was made a parish by the Archbishop of San Francisco under the guidance of St. Bernard of Clairvaux as its patron saint. The parish was faced with the challenge of building a new Catholic church that would accommodate its growing faith community. The parishioners came together as one family, hearing the call of stewardship and built a new church with a seating capacity of over 200 people, which was more than double the size of their previous church.

In 1951 St. Bernard's current facility was completed and dedicated. In fact, many of your parents and grandparents made a financial sacrifice so that the current facility on Eaton Avenue could meet the needs of future generations.

My dear brothers and sisters, almost 100 years after the inception of St. Bernard's Parish, the Lord has once again blessed us with the challenge of better accommodating our ever-growing Catholic community. Today, we seek to build a new church with a seating capacity of 2000, a double grade parochial and preschool, a multi-purpose building to accommodate our numerous social events, and parking for 1000 automobiles. All at a cost in the millions of dollars.

While this may seem an enormous task and at such a high cost, the challenge and purpose is no different than what our founders were faced with 100 years ago. By our faith we continue to be challenged to serve the people of God, to bring alive the Body of Christ at St. Bernard's. United in faith, love, and hope, we must reach out for the future, demonstrating that we too know what it means to be the family of God.

I ask that each family review the information provided in this packet regarding our new development and take to prayer about how God would have each of us respond to this need and what would truly represent a sacrificial offering.

Just as our founders sacrificed 50 and 100 years ago, so must we now sacrifice to meet the growing needs of our Catholic community today and for generations to come.

I am confident that you will embrace and support this project as you have always done as a faith filled community.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Ivo D. Rocha Pastor