

## **A Special Message from Fr. Duarte**

As you know, since St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was established as a tiny mission nearly 40 years ago, it has grown tremendously. With our current registered families at 220 and growing, we know that a need for a larger church is an ongoing reality.

With this in mind, it is personally important to me to communicate with you now. As you may remember, in 2015, our parish participated in the *Living Our Mission* capital campaign. This campaign was a first of its kind to support the larger ministries of our Catholic Church. At the same time, each parish had the opportunity to raise money for its own local priorities. In our case, the money we raised was to build a new Church to accommodate our growing community.

I want to take this time to thank you for your participation in this effort and for everything you do for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

As you know, it has been a long time since we raised funds through this campaign. As a valued member of our parish and a valued supporter of this project, I wanted to take the opportunity to provide an update on the status of the church project. We have reached out to the diocese and they are providing guidance through the Offices of Real Estate and Finance on steps moving forward now that the difficult pandemic years are behind us. The funds raised for this project stand at about \$545,000.00 and as a designated fund, none may be used for operating expenses of the parish.

When the project initiated, the estimate given was approximately three million. Once we receive guidance from the diocese on steps moving forward, I will make sure to keep you posted on when we will be conducting additional fundraising activities in the near future.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 804-932-4125 or [sduarte@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:sduarte@richmonddiocese.org).

Invoking the intercession of our Blessed Mother and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, our Patroness, we ask God's abundant blessing upon you and for His will for our parish to achieve its full potential.

Thank you for everything you have done and will continue to do to make this goal a reality.

Sincerely in Christ,



Reverend J. Scott Duarte, J.C.D.  
Pastor