



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A 40-YEAR-OLD DREAM COMES TRUE

St. Paul Catholic Church realizes its destiny in Church dedication.

PENSACOLA, FL – St. Paul Catholic Church will move toward the future this Sunday, August 24, 2008, as Bishop John Ricard blesses and dedicates the new Church building. The dedication ceremony will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the new Church, located at 3131 Hyde Park Road in Pensacola, Florida. All members of the Pensacola area and surrounding communities are welcome to join the congregation in the dedication and celebratory reception, immediately following in St. Paul's Fellowship Hall.

The completion and dedication of the new Church is a long-awaited and much-anticipated realization of a dream that began over 40 years ago. When the charter members of St. Paul's first formed in 1963, and then began construction on the current "temporary" building, it was always assumed that one day, the members would have a larger, more permanent, location in which to worship.

Through the years, the parish grew to the point where one building was no longer large enough, and St. Paul then branched out through Our Savior Catholic Church on Spanish Trail Road. Today, St. Paul and Our Savior have over 1,500 families combined, and are now bursting out of two structures. Toward the effort of bringing the two parishes together again, the "Our Faith, Our Home, Our Future" capital campaign was officially created in Fall 2003. Fr. Douglas Halsema, pastor of St. Paul, devoted the next five years to that campaign and the successful completion of the parish's mission: unifying two parishes into one Church family.

Not only does the new Church building hold four times the people, it also comes complete with a new acoustical system that the old building pales in comparison to. Mr. Thomas Helms is St. Paul's new Director of Music, and he has some big plans ahead. "This is not just a dream come true for the members of St. Paul," he remarked. "This is something special for the entire community. The sensation of this building's acoustics is absolutely glorious. It won't be a secret for long."

True to his word, that secret has already spread. The Pensacola Children's Chorus and the Pensacola Choral Society have already reserved the Church for performances in Spring 2009, as has Perdido Brass, a local professional brass ensemble. During this weekend's dedication, guests will hear the power of the



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music for themselves, as works will be played from the likes of Mozart, Brahms and John Rutter. Soloist Sara Doria will perform Mozart's "Alleluia," as well.

The old building will remain on site, and the plan is that, eventually, it will become the cafetorium (cafeteria/auditorium) for St. Paul Catholic School. However, all of the pews from the original building have been donated to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Long Beach, MS, a Church that was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and whose members are currently congregating in Long Beach's local skating rink. Fr. Halsema, speaking of the donation, said, "In this way, our parish's hopes and dreams can live on in another parish's place of worship." As for Tom Helms, he sums it up by saying, "One way or another, this new Church is going to literally change people's lives."

For more information about the event, please contact the St. Paul Catholic Office at 850.434.2551 or visit the website at www.stpaulcatholic.net. For questions about St. Paul's music program, please call Tom Helms at 850.324.2817.

WHAT: St. Paul Catholic Church Dedication Ceremony & Reception
WHEN: August 24, 2008 – 2:00 pm
WHERE: 3131 Hyde Park Road, Pensacola, FL
COST: Free to public – reservations not required
INFO: 850.434.2551 or www.stpaulcatholic.net

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