

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SANTA CLARA DE ASIS PARISH COMPLETES CONSTRUCTION OF SAN DAMIANO MULTIPURPOSE CENTER *The center draws its architectural inspiration from the Umbria region of Italy*

ORANGE, Calif., (March 3, 2006) – After nearly two years of construction, Santa Clara de Asís parish, Yorba Linda will open its doors and welcome the community to its new 16,000 square foot, medieval-inspired multipurpose center this Saturday, March 4 at 12:00 p.m. The Most Rev. Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange will bless the structure through the ceremonial sprinkling of holy water. “Our long anticipated San Damiano Center will accommodate our parish’s need for a worship space, meeting rooms and temporary offices. The hall compliments our parish and community through its use of symbolism and artwork inspired by our 2003 pilgrimage to the Umbria region of Italy,” said Michael P. Hanifin, pastor of Santa Clara de Asís.

San Damiano Multipurpose Center incorporates design features that are reminiscent of the medieval city of Assisi, located in the Umbria region of Italy. The magnificent city of Assisi was home to the thirteenth century founder of a religious order of women, Saint Clare of Assisi. Among the center’s distinct features is an image of the flying buttress in the façade of the hall. The original can be seen in the support structure of Santa Chiara Church in Assisi. The planned landscape surrounding the center will include cypress and olive trees, which are the most prominent features of the Umbrian landscape. The center was originally designed by Corcoran, Corcoran and Botich, Inc. and was later carried forward and refined by LPA, Inc. The designers drew much of their insight and inspiration from Santa Clara de Asís parishioners that joined Fr. Hanifin on a pilgrimage of holy sites throughout the Umbria region.

The Building Committee of Santa Clara de Asís was formed in early August 2001 under the leadership of Chairperson Frank Weber. The committee considered a number of possible options for the initial building construction, before finally settling on the multipurpose center and meeting rooms that will be dedicated Sunday.

The center is built on a parcel of land acquired by the Diocese of Orange in September of 1993. The acquisition consisted of 120 acres of land in Yorba Linda. In June 1995, the

Diocese donated 81 of those acres to the City of Yorba Linda for the development of a municipal park. Six of the acres acquired were given to Santa Clara de Asís parish for construction of their church campus, which will include several additional buildings planned for development in the coming years. The six acres to the north of the church campus were used to build St. Francis School, which opened in 1998. The San Damiano Center is the first building completed in the church campus development project.

“The completion of the multipurpose center represents the fulfillment of phase one of our construction process. We look forward to further expansion that will include a new church building and the completion of the remaining church campus buildings. Our parishioners now have a permanent central location to join together in worship,” added Fr. Hanifin.

About Santa Clara de Asís:

Founded July 1, 2001, Santa Clara de Asís parish encompasses East Yorba Linda and the Anaheim Hills. This parish was originally created to relieve the severe overcrowding at the surrounding parishes of San Antonio de Padua, Anaheim Hills and Saint Martin de Porres, Yorba Linda. The first Masses were held at Saint Francis of Assisi School in Yorba Linda in the multipurpose room called “The Saint Clare Hall.” Within the first month of operation approximately 125 families registered with the newly formed parish and attended regular masses. In less than one year, Santa Clara de Asís Catholic Church outgrew the capacity of the Saint Francis multipurpose room and began celebrating masses at Bryant Ranch School, Yorba Linda. Presently over 525 registered families attend the three Masses held each weekend at Bryant Ranch School.

For more information about Santa Clara de Asis, please visit: www.santaclarachurch.org

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