

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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ANAHEIM PARISH RECOVERS FROM ARSON

St. Justin Martyr Completes Nearly \$1 Million Restoration after Fire

ORANGE, Calif., (August 2, 2006) - The Most Rev. Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange will join in solidarity with the entire Anaheim community in dedicating St. Justin Martyr Parish Church, August 10 at 6:00 p.m. It has been just over one year since unidentified arsonists set fire to the rear of the church, destroying much of the choir loft. The parish's Tongan, Chinese, Filipino, Spanish and English choirs will perform at the dedication ceremony, a concrete expression of St. Justin's diverse congregation. Msgr. Hugh O'Connor, the founding pastor in 1958, will be present.

"This tightly knit community has endured a great deal of hardship over the past year. Daily mass has been celebrated under a large tent in the rear of the church - rain or shine or searing heat- for more than a year. I am truly inspired by our parishioners' perseverance in the face of adversity and their lack of animosity toward those who committed this act," said Bishop Brown.

The extensive renovation project was completed July 28, 2006 by Vertical Construction of Irvine and designed by Armando Ruiz Associates of Diamond Bar. The church has been restored to its original condition and features unique artwork that was saved from destruction by Anaheim firefighters and restored by parishioners. The total square footage of the building remains unchanged at 12,132 sq. ft. and the seating capacity stands at 859. Upon entering the church, parishioners will be greeted by a newly installed stained glass window, a replica of Bernini's 17th century Holy Spirit window in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. This window was designed and crafted by Bovard Studios, located in Fairfield, Iowa.

"This experience has strengthened our faith and community. It has been a long journey for us from that first day of the fire. I am very grateful for the hard work of our capital campaign committee that has raised nearly \$750,000 for this renovation. We are blessed to move back into our beautiful church and to be able to continue to build our faith there," said Rev. Joseph M. Nettekoven, pastor of St. Justin Martyr.

St. Justin Martyr Parish History:

The first Mass celebrated in St. Justin Martyr Parish was held in an industrial warehouse located at 1773 West Lincoln Avenue, Anaheim on May 25, 1958, by Rev. Hugh O'Connor, the founding pastor of St. Justin Martyr. Within the first year, more than 800 families had joined the parish, attending regular mass in the industrial warehouse. Less than one year after the parish was founded, the parishioners broke ground on what is now the current church, demonstrating their dedication and cohesiveness. The original blessing of the church and school was performed on June 26, 1960 by Cardinal McIntyre.

If you are interested in more detailed information about the Rites of Dedication please contact Lesa Truxaw, Director of Worship at 714-282-3042.

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