

"Moving On"

With the acceptance of our loan application, we are now positioned to begin construction on Lower Buckeye Road just east of Miller Rd. and across the street from Youngker High School. To watch a vision slowly materialize is exciting. It is also a sign that we are truly moving on. In time we will say 'good-bye' to the parish property downtown and begin to reorganize the flow of parish life: her fellowship, administration, catechetical and evangelical efforts.

St. Henry parish center in downtown Buckeye has served the community well for many years. The increase in Buckeye's population accompanied by the major shift in the population center has left us in a position where a new location and the opportunity to expand is imperative. The current location downtown is up for sale to help us meet our financial obligations to repay our debt on the 1st phase of construction. There is quite simply no option in this regard. Reality is reality, and the Church must adjust to changing demographics. Just as in major cities east of the Mississippi like Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit, Cleveland, and Chicago, parishes are being closed, combined, and relocated in order to meet the needs of the present-day reality of how/where people congregate and how they travel. It can be painful for many as they watch the parish where they were baptized or married being sold or torn down altogether. But as with all things that pass in this changing world, new seeds sprout forth and continue to blossom in surprising ways.

Now, Phase 1 of our new parish campus is only going to be a parking lot, hall, and chapel. The hall will be used for communal events, catechesis, parish organization meetings, as well as Sunday worship. The chapel will be our sacred space where only sacramental actions will take place. Admittedly, this phase will not solve all of our needs. But it is a start in the right direction. We will probably be moving from one construction stage to the next as the need for an office and meeting rooms will become the next major phase of construction. Eventually, it will be time to build the major church. Hang on. It's all part of our parish moving through time with us parishioners going along for the ride . . . on the highway to heaven. Peace. Patience.

– fr kosco