

## St. Peter's hosts annual Rosary Sunday celebration

Story and Photo by Rick Folchert

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE OF CATHOLIC LIFE

GUNNISON - Members of St. Peter's in Gunnison held their annual Rosary Sunday Ida Archuleta's beautiful backyard which features a large hand carved statue of Our Blessed Mother. Over thirty parishioners gathered at 2 p.m. on the first weekend in November to recite the Rosary and share refreshments afterwards.

Every year these faithful come despite any adverse weather conditions. This year decades of the Glorious Mysteries were said both in English and Spanish. Father Steve J. Murray, pastor, was among those in attendance and led in the recitation of a decade.

In addition, a small group from the parish participated in the Vocations Walk with Father Murray leading the 17.5 mile trek.

Both events were very inspirational for participants and the challenge for next year was to increase the number of parishioners involved. ¶

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## Construction begins on new rectory for St. Joseph's in Grand Junction

Story and Photos by Ginny Revel

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE OF CATHOLIC LIFE

After almost four years of praying and planning, the building of a new rectory for St. Joseph's parish in Grand Junction is set to begin.

On Saturday, December 9, 2006, Father Edmundo Valera, Ph.D., Pastor, wielded the ceremonial "golden shovel" to turn back the dirt on the vacant lot located on White Avenue, adjacent to the former Catholic Outreach office building. Members of the parish's Finance Committee also participated in the ground breaking. The new rectory will be situated diagonally across the street from the old convent structure that currently houses Father Edmundo and the St. Francis Chapel.

In January 2006, J. B. Good Construction, with John Atencio as contractor, submitted the winning bid of \$240,000 for construction of the rectory. Expenses for landscaping, perimeter fencing and security will add approximately \$20,000 more to the building costs.

To raise the needed funds, St. Joseph's sold the parking lot which is situated behind the parish office to Home Loan & Investment Co. and then purchased the property across the street from where the rectory will be built. The net proceeds from these transactions, augmented by a sizeable donation generously gifted to St. Joseph's by Home Loan & Investment Co., went into the Rectory Building Fund.

The new St. Joseph's rectory will be a two-story structure composed of two housing units. This will provide enough living space for both Father Edmundo and an associate priest (when assigned). There will also be separate quarters reserved for Bishop Tafoya's use on his parochial visits.

According to Father Edmundo, the building of the rectory (the first to be built in a long time) is an important endeavor,

*Father Edmundo Valera, Ph.D., Pastor of St. Joseph's, Grand Junction with parish Finance Committee and staff members have their "shovels at the ready" for ceremonial ground breaking for new rectory building. l-r: Jack Duray -*



*Finance Committee, John Atencio - Contractor, J. B. Good Construction, Margarito Betancourt - Grounds/Maintenance, Fr. Edmundo Valera - Pastor, Bill Anderies - and Nancy Atencio - Finance Committee, and Carmen Fuller - Coordinator, Liturgy/Hispanic Ministry. Not pictured: Cindy Enos-Martinez and Erik van de Boogarde - Finance Committee.*



*View of current rectory at St. Joseph parish in Grand Junction. The "new" rectory, to be completed by Spring, 2007, will be situated diagonally across the street, in the next block adjacent to the church.*

not only for St. Joseph Parish, but for the entire diocese.

"This is something that we can be proud of as a faith community,"

he added, "because we will now have the ability to provide decent housing for our priests."

He also indicated that as pastor, he has the added responsibility of serving as the "ambassador" of the parish community and thus needs a presentable atmosphere to offer hospitality and to entertain the steady stream of guests who visit the parish.

Father Edmundo reflects that "a priest's life is all about constant giving of self. And yet," he adds, "we are also human beings who can reach our saturation points - and so we do need to recharge our batteries from time to time. A priest who is healthy both physically and emotionally can better serve the flock entrusted to him." He then states that "a quiet place to go home to at the

end of the day is a necessity, not a luxury. A private and well-appointed rectory is definitely a move in this important direction."

In conclusion - and in jest - he notes, "that the rectory's second unit, which is reserved for a parochial vicar, could well be a retirement home for our beloved Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya. Now there's a good and wishful thought!"

Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's "neo-Prairie" design as featured in the famous Robie House in Oak Park, Illinois, the rectory will have sweeping horizontal lines as well as gently-sloping succeeding roofs and wide overhangs to give it a spacious look.

The City of Grand Junction has just recently reviewed and approved the property's landscaping design, as well as the residential/commercial zoning designation for the lot, clearing the way for the building to commence.

Weather delays notwithstanding, the new rectory is estimated to be finished in four months. This timing will facilitate a much anticipated Spring housewarming for Father Edmundo Valera, Ph.D. and the St. Joseph's parish community. ¶

## IHM hosts 2nd Candlelight Rosary

GRAND JUNCTION- Fifty members of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Grand Junction braved cold temperatures and darkness to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The 2nd Annual Candlelight Rosary and Procession was held on Friday, December 8, 2006.

A solemn Mass offered by Father Jerome Rykowski was followed by a Scriptural Rosary led by parishioner Ed Schmitz.

The 4th Degree Knights of Columbus from the Father Nicholas Bertrand Assembly #1519 escorted a statue of the Virgin around the outside perimeter of the church in a candlelight procession.

Afterwards, refreshments and hot drinks donated by the Knights' Ladies Auxiliary, IHM Social Activities Group, and the Catholic Scripture study members were served in the IHM Friendship Hall. ¶



*Knights led the procession. Ed Schmitz led the Rosary.*

### Full-time Youth Minister

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Grand Junction, CO is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to guide the faith formation of our parish youth (middle school through young adult) as part of a faith formation team.

Good communication, organizational skills and experience in youth ministry required; degree in youth ministry, theology or religious studies preferred. Responsibilities include the service, social and spiritual growth of our youth including the preparation for Confirmation.

We offer diocesan pay scale and benefits package. Starting date is negotiable.

E-mail resume to [mnovotny@ihmgjt.org](mailto:mnovotny@ihmgjt.org) or send to Mary Novotny, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 790 26 1/2 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506. Position open until filled.

