

STEPPING STONES

Changes and Growth

In the last fourteen years, there have been many changes within Northwest Arkansas and our parish. One of the most significant changes has been growth. Both our area and our St. Joseph Community have been blessed with growth. After our move to Starr Drive, our parish, school, ministries and groups expanded and continued to grow. Phase II-the DeBriyn Family Activity Center and classroom addition was needed to meet the parish's demands for meeting space. It included classrooms and gathering space cut from Phase I due to budget constraints.



Since opening the DeBriyn Family Life and Activity Center in April, 2012:

Our Parish:

- Added the 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass
- Doubled the number activities and programs
- Expanded ministries
- Has a venue for large 300+ person events
- Increased our parish staff
- Increased weekly Mass attendance
- Expanded Eucharistic Adoration opportunities
- Had 11% growth in families and 21% growth in souls
- Was assigned an associate pastor
- Saw Lino Vazquez and Mike Henry ordained deacons
- Expanded adult educational opportunities
- Increased participation in Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

Our School:

- Added 8th grade classes
- Added athletics programs and AAA sports teams
- Was named 2014 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School
- Received Reader's Choice Award for Best Private School for two consecutive years
- Participated in AAA Quiz Bowl
- Earned Better Beginnings Preschool Certification
- Updated technology equipment and programs
- Added playground equipment
- Began hosting home games and conference tournaments

Washington County continues to grow. From 2010- 2015 the county's population increased by 22,414. Within the next 14 years, Washington County's population is projected to increase by over 65,000 people. U.S. News ranks Fayetteville in the top ten, as one of the best places in the region to live and retire. Forbes magazine has ranked Fayetteville in its top 20 cities for business and careers.

Phase II has been a success and our growth has helped us arrive at the time to launch Phase III. The first step in this phase is to support the proposed land purchase. Then we will design and build a church which will free up space in our current building for future church and school ministerial, educational and social needs. As we work towards realizing our promise of a free-standing church, designed to glorify God through liturgical worship, renewed reverence as God's home and to meet the demands for the Sacraments, please pray that we listen so that we may know and follow God's will.

More details will be forthcoming in this column, town hall meetings, on our website, and in mailings.