

# SAG Site Solar Energy Project

## Parishioner Legacy Gift for Our Parish

Based on the great success of the solar project at the OLR site\*, the Green Committee is sponsoring a pledge drive to install 126 solar panels on the roof of the SESS gym at the St. Albert the Great site.

In addition to generating renewable energy in response to Pope Francis' plea in Laudato Si to “care for our common home”, the solar panels would provide an additional electricity cost savings of **\$7,500 per year for 25 years** for St. Thomas Aquinas parish. As the electricity rates increase, the savings will be even more.



Rendition of 126 solar panels on the SESS gym roof

Please see the FAQ's on the reverse side for more details and information on how to pledge.

The Pledge Coupon is also included in the back.

For further information, please call Katia at 494-1871.

\* For the OLR site solar system we raised \$47,397 in parishioner donations and it produces 60% of the electricity used at the site. This year, January 1 to September 30, our parish has already saved \$5,091 in electricity costs.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

### **What is the fundraising goal?**

Answer: **\$37,245**

### **What are the project financials?**

|         |                               |                 |
|---------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Answer: | Solar installation cost       | \$72,500        |
|         | Publicity supplies & printing | 200             |
|         | Inverter maintenance reserve  | <u>5,750</u>    |
|         | Total project cost            | 78,450          |
|         | PA Utility rebate             | -34,500 #       |
|         | Seed money from OLR project   | <u>- 6,705</u>  |
|         | Net project cost              | <b>\$37,245</b> |

### **What will be the savings to the parish?**

Answer: The 34.650 Kw (dc) system will generate 54,000 kWh of electricity **each year** for 25 years resulting in at least \$7,500 annual savings. The system will provide 39% of the energy used at the entire SAG site.

### **How will the money be raised?**

Answer: There is a parish-wide pledge drive being held from October 11 through November 15.

### **How much is the rebate from Palo Alto Utilities?**

# The parish will receive \$34,500 rebate from Palo Alto and it will be used to help fund the project.

### **How do I pledge?**

Answer: The Pledge coupon on this page may be mailed to the Pastoral Center or dropped into the collection basket. Please do not enclose any money when pledging.

### **When will the pledge payment be due?**

Answer: The payments will be due between November 16 and Nov. 30, 2015, in order to ensure that the work can begin on December 19. Please write the checks to St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and "SAG Solar" on the memo line. Chuck Tully, at the Pastoral Center, will receive the payments, which may be in the form of checks dropped off or mailed in to him at 3290 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 94306.

### **When would the solar installation commence?**

Answer: Since we want the installation process to be as unobtrusive as possible for Seton School, we are aiming for their Christmas break.

### **Why was the gym at SAG chosen for the solar installation?**

Answer: The gym roof was replaced this summer and it has excellent southern exposure.

Cut here -----Cut here

### **PLEDGE Coupon for the Parishioner-funded Solar Project at the SAG site**

The objective is to raise \$37,245 by November 30, 2015

To contribute, please make a pledge using this form, or, you can make the pledge online at the Parish web site:

[www.paloaltocatholic.net](http://www.paloaltocatholic.net). On the front page, there is an icon that directs you to the pledge form; just fill in the blanks and click "Submit." Online transactions are processed overnight at which time you will receive confirmation.

I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Solar Project at SAG / Seton between Nov. 16 and Nov. 30, 2015

If the project does not go forward, I will owe nothing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

(please print clearly)

Please mail this form to the **parish office at 3290 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 94306**. Or **just drop it in the collection basket**. Please do not enclose any money at this time. If the pledge drive succeeds, you will be contacted on November 16 regarding your tax-deductible contribution.