

Sharing the Promise



***Alive in Christ* helps parish make a joyful noise unto the Lord**



Psalm 100 urges the faithful to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord ... come before His presence with singing," but in churches with outdated sound systems or poor acoustics, heeding the words of the Psalmist may be easier said than done.

This had long been the case at St. Margaret Mary, Winter Park, where the curved sanctuary provides a contemporary environment that, until recently, was hampered by unreliable sound coverage and excessive bass reverberation.

"One's ability to hear clearly and intelligently throughout our church facility had been a persistent problem," explained Fr. Richard Walsh, Pastor.

The worship space at St. Margaret Mary features a design that emerged from the period immediately following Vatican II, with its renewed emphasis on the communal life of the Church. The sanctuary's round shape serves as a powerful reminder that we are all equally called into a life of holiness in Jesus Christ; however, as Fr. Richard Walsh explained during a recent homily, "the building has been what would be called an

acoustical nightmare."

Despite three previous efforts to correct the sound problems with electronic fixes, parishioner complaints continued.

"Thanks to funds generated through *Alive in Christ*, we have been in a position to attempt a solution," said Fr. Walsh.

After carefully studying the available options, the parish Building Committee treated the church to a Biblically-inspired acoustic facelift that has blessed parishioners with a sanctuary more fit for hearing the spoken word of God and rejoicing in song.

"Due to the *Alive in Christ Campaign*, after 40 years in our church building, we are finally hearing the word of God more clearly!" exclaimed Kevin Hagan, who oversees organizational development at St. Margaret Mary. "One member turned in his hearing assistant device to an usher, saying he hears fine now, maybe another member could use the device."

Both Kevin Hagan and Fr. Walsh attribute the project's success to first-class teamwork among the parish Building Committee, a local electronics supplier, and a Canadian acoustics company that specializes in the unique needs of churches.

To achieve the dramatic results, the team balanced electronic sound system upgrades with highly customized wall and window treatments. Photographs of the updated sanctuary show the presence of decorative columns designed to diffuse excess bass reflection and improve overall sound quality.

"We were very concerned about the aesthetic result, but we are happy to report that the improvements have been warmly received by our members as a very good aesthetic improvement," explained Hagan.

For the Toronto-based acoustician who assisted in the project, the results are not only effective, but they're also biblical. The company derives much of its inspiration from 1 Kings, particularly the descriptions of engraved palm trees and cherubs that lined the interior walls of Solomon's temple and may have served as an early form of acoustic diffusers.

Before Acoustical Treatment



After Acoustical Treatment



Link to Original Article. <http://www.catholicfoundationcfl.org/Alive-in-Christ-helps-parish-make-a-joyful-noise-unto-the-Lord>

The Acoustical Company is JdB Sound Acoustics, Toronto, Ontario Canada

The Pro Audio Company and contact person is Craig Beyrooti at Atlantic Pro Audio, Florida, USA

Additional Photos

