

Recession Slows Fundraising For New Catholic Church

A hoped-for spring groundbreaking for a new Sts. Donatian & Rogatian Catholic Church on Route 66 in Randolph is looking unlikely.

According to Fr. John Milanese, financial ripples from the recession and the September 11 attacks have slowed contributions to the project's capital fund.

"We have a number of parishioners who wish to give sizeable contributions to our campaign, but cannot do so at this time because of our weakened economy," he noted.

The new construction, including a larger sanctuary, a small chapel and new offices, kitchen and parish hall, is estimated to cost \$800,000. The regional diocese, Milanese noted, requires that the

church have that entire amount pledged and 60% of that total (\$480,000) in hand, before any work begins.

Additional "soft costs" of \$200,000—for permitting, water hookup, signage, and the like—will bring the project total to \$1-million, according to Milanese.

So far, he said, parishioners and supporters have pledged \$732,000, of which \$205,000 is in hand.

Many of the pledges are being paid in weekly, monthly or quarterly installments, so that latter fund is continually growing, Milanese said.

The church is also applying for grants from Catholic foundations to help the fund drive, he added.