

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Demolition Begins on Historic Jesuit Church

St. Marys, KS, July 3, 2009 -- Plans are now finalized for removing the ruins of the historic Immaculata church on the grounds of St. Mary's Academy and College in St. Marys Kansas. This is the first phase in the project to build a new Immaculata on the site of the older church.

The removal will begin on Monday, July 6 by Meier & Co. of Topeka. The company estimates that it will take a month for the entire structure to be brought down, the stone stored on site and the ground leveled in preparation for constructing the new church.

Discussing the building of the new church, Isaac Moats, the Director of Fundraising, said that the architect and building committee found it important to follow the precedent set by the Jesuits in placing the church in the center of the campus. "100 years ago when the Jesuit Fathers built the original Immaculata, they made a conscious decision to place the church in the very heart of the campus. They did so because the church was to be the heart of St. Mary's College, giving life to the rest of the school. We are placing the new church there to follow in their footsteps," said Moats.

The total cost to dismantle and remove the ruins, prepare the ground and build Phase 1 of the new church is estimated at 10 - 12 million dollars. Moats is optimistic that the goal will be reached. He stated, "We've already raised over one million dollars in cash alone, and are quickly approaching two million dollars in cash and pledges combined. So, yes, I think its certainly something we can accomplish."

The new church will service St. Mary's Academy and College, a Roman Catholic school and parish staffed by priests of the Society of St. Pius X. Due to a growing community, it was necessary to build a new, larger church. The new Immaculata will be approximately 45,000 square feet, will seat about 1,300 people and will be built in the traditional Gothic style. When complete, it will be one of the largest churches of this style built in the U.S. in the last few decades. McCrery Architects, LLC of Washington D.C. is the design architect.

The demolition will be available for viewing over the internet by visiting www.anewimmaculata.org.

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