



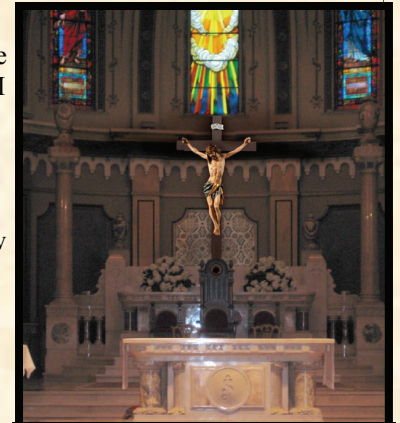
## *A Note From Fr. Henry: Christ in our Midst*

As I wrote to you back in August of last year, our community life continues to grow and flourish, a sign that Christ is alive in our midst. As I mentioned then, we have been studying options for the location and design of a permanent crucifix for the Cathedral. The crucifix is one of the most powerful images of our Christian faith, because it directly reminds us of the sacrifice of Christ dying for our sins. In some cultures, and in some personal spiritualities, it is a central image of prayer and devotion. In the context of the sacrifice of the Mass, though, our Church wants the Body of Christ in the form of the assembled community to be focused upon the sacrifice of the Mass which happens on the altar. For many years in our recent history, this meant that many churches were designed without a permanent crucifix. Yet, because this is an important spiritual symbol, there should be a place for this symbol within our worship space, so that it can be seen, to aid in the spiritual development of the people. Our Church recognized this in 2003 with the adoption of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, which calls for a crucifix in a place where it is clearly visible to the assembled congregation. This is a recognition that such a permanent symbol would help to call to mind the saving Passion of the Lord.

For the Cathedral, we have been studying the issue of where such a crucifix should be located. I received a recommendation from our Pastoral Council that we pursue the idea of locating a permanent crucifix in the Cathedral. This was not an easy decision, because of the design of the Cathedral, the liturgical furnishings already in place, and the wide variety of crucifix designs available. I have sought to

determine a location and design for the crucifix that would complement our historic worship space. In my travels last year in Europe I was able to see many different examples of the crucifix, which helped to narrow the search for an appropriate crucifix for the Cathedral. I am happy to report that the crucifix has now been carved, and is in Boise, awaiting an appropriate dedication ceremony. The crucifix will be installed and dedicated by Bishop Driscoll at the 7:00 PM Mass on Ash Wednesday, February 25. As I mentioned when I wrote last, there are two important things that I want the community to remember:

- Jesus died for ALL of us. The crucifix is a symbol for the whole community. In future years, I would like everyone here at the Cathedral to be able to look at the Crucifix and feel like they were a part of bringing this beautiful symbol into our worship space. So, while we can cover the cost of this crucifix (\$18,000) by large donations from a few or other means, I do not want to do that, because I want to give everyone a chance to be a part of this effort. We have already received some individual contributions towards this purchase. I would like to see this be a community project, with the whole parish participating in securing this powerful symbol of our faith. With the economic situation, you may be feeling a pinch, or you may feel like everyone is asking for money for various projects. It does not matter how much you give to this effort, but instead the most important thing is that each person have an opportunity to participate. We have created special envelopes for the "Crucifix Fund." If we receive more donations than the cost of the crucifix, I would use additional funds for the art work, statuary and liturgical furnishings needed in the chapel.
- The other very important point is that the crucifix is not just a piece of artwork for the Cathedral. While it is beautiful and will enhance our worship and prayer, visualizing the suffering Christ should help to focus on the suffering Body of Christ. In our faith, we believe that Jesus came to teach us many things, but primary among them was that we have an obligation to follow Jesus' example by reaching out to those suffering in our midst. I am hopeful that this new symbol will energize our efforts to do whatever we can to help the poor and vulnerable among us.



This picture is an approximation of the location and size of the new crucifix, but is not a precise rendering, just an approximation

### *Children,*

***Participate in our parish coloring project by picking up a children's packet. Bring your coloring pages back to put in the Children's Collection anytime in February. (We will display them in the Hall, so put your name on them!) Help bring Jesus to the Cathedral by saving your allowance, and putting it in the Children's Collection on February 14 and 15. The Children's Collection that day will be donated to the Crucifix Fund.***