


# OMOS GETS ITS POWER FROM THE ~~SUN~~ Son

FROM THE SUN IN THE SKY OF CREATION AND FROM THE SON IN THE SKY OF REDEMPTION...


*Our Mother of Sorrows Solar Dedication October 16, 2011*



☀ There are a total of 360 panels installed; 120 on the roof of the church and 240 on the carport array.


☀ The total size of the system is 110 kilowatts.

☀ At this time, 60% of the total electrical usage of the church, office, rectory, and Parish Activities Center will be provided by the sun - enough power to run approximately 14 average homes.




☀ The system will harness approximately 14,300 kilowatts each month.

☀ By reducing our carbon footprint, we are offsetting: 14,500 lbs of coal per month, 7,150 gallons of water saved per month and 425,488 lbs of carbon dioxide annually.



☀ The total cost of the system was \$552,907. Because Omos has a third party financier, there was no out-of-pocket for Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, with the exception of an increase to the insurance premium and installation of wireless internet access equipment.

☀ Tucson Electric Power will provide an annual rebate to Our Mother of Sorrows Parish up to \$24,832 until 60% of the total system cost is reached - in other words, for approximately 13 years.



☀ As rates for electricity rise, we will see even more savings.

☀ Our Mother of Sorrows Parish will own the system free and clear in approximately 13 years.

☀ Two electrical car charging stations are being installed on the east side under the solar carport array.



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As your pastor, I take great delight with you, our faithful and supportive parishioners as Our Mother of Sorrows Parish marks a historic milestone today with the dedication of our 360 panel solar installation. Yes, we do get our energy from two suns - the sun of creation and the Son of God. The 360 solar panels turned toward the sun are surely symbolic of praying hands. Solar panels are praying hands, and praying hands are solar panels, both drawing energy from the Son of God and the sun of creation.

The dedication of the solar installation through hands raised in prayer at all Masses this weekend is surely a real dimension of holistic stewardship. Holistic stewardship means that everything we have is gift - God's gift to us for our benefit and for the benefit of all peoples and creation around us. In tapping into the sun's energy through our solar installation we are tapping into an energy source for all people and for the good of creation. Whenever we gather for Eucharist for the Mass, our hands held aloft in prayer draw the energy of God's grace upon us through the amazing presence of His Son in the community assembled, in the Word proclaimed and in the Sacraments celebrated.

The solar installation has become possible through the sharing of stewardship gifts of many of our parishioners. I want to especially thank our parish Care for Creation Committee, under the leadership of Hank Krzysik, who initiated this direction more than two years ago. Our thanks to the following Care for Creation Committee members: Hank Krzysik, Laura Stehle, Katie Hirschboeck, Rich Sherwood, Jennifer Byrne, Theresa Bankert, and Francisco Zamora.

Our Parish Ministries Council, Board of Directors, Finance Committee, Building & Maintenance Commission, and Master Plan Committee were all significantly involved in the collective effort that has brought about this solar installation gift to our parish. I thank the following past and present members of the Parish Ministries Council: Marisela Esquerro, Mary Lebron, Randy Jacob, Conrad Greer, Patrick Sciacca, Marie Tan, RJ Saavedra, Maggie Medina, Mike Parker, Patrick Burke, Julia Dittiger, George Gewehr, Sally Barnhart, Diana Maugans, Cossetti Quijada, and Nancy Arce (ex-officio). I also thank our past and present members of our Board of Directors: Bob Sicilian, Cathy Nunez, Brenda Carrillo, and Bob Scala. I thank our parish Finance Committee: Anne Marie King, Bob Scala, Charlie Mahn, Nancy Arce, Randy Jacob, Robert Barr, Steve English, and George Gewehr. I thank our Building & Maintenance Commission and Master Plan Committee: Anne Marie King, Carl Harlan, Hank Krzysik, Julian Lopez, Leonard Zimmerman, and Rodney Langer.

While our Stewardship & Development Council were not directly involved in a hands-on way on the development of this project, the vision of holistic stewardship through the Stewardship & Development Council surely embraces this gift of solar energy free-flowing from the sky of God's creation. Our Mother of Sorrows drawing its energy from the sun/Son must always be a collective effort in thanksgiving for the amazing ways in which our God has blessed us and is continuing to bless us.

Our thanks to the Diocesan Building Committee for their review and affirmation and to Bishop Kicanas for his positive support and affirmation of this first major solar energy project in the Diocese of Tucson.

