

St. Francis de Sales Liturgy Garden Blessed By Bishop Rizzotto

When Joni Broers brought her son Cason to attend to St. Francis de Sales school in 1997, she became interested in doing something to beautify the grounds. Much reflection brought to mind the unique idea of a Liturgy Garden featuring the Stations of the Cross. Financing for the landscaping part of the project came from several sources. Joni suggested a program which became known as Pennies from Heaven. Several times a year, students were asked to bring in pennies they had saved as a contribution. SFdS PTO donated \$8,600 to the effort. Additional funding came from an Exxon Corporation grant coordinated by Joe Welsh, a SFdS parishioner and a grandfather of former SFdS students. San Jacinto Girl Scout Troop 4068 also contributed money they had raised.

In order to finance the cost of the Stations of the Cross, SFdS community members were given the opportunity to purchase a Station in honor or memory of a family or loved one. SFdS Alum Jeffrey Cheung ('04) designed the Stations which included a bronze plaque depicting each station set atop a block of marble. Winford Monuments and Granite, Inc. supplied granite obtained from the mountains of China and began construction of the Stations last year. William Lee, vice president of Winford Monuments, added his artistry to the project by sandblasting each name on the granite base.

The St. Francis de Sales Liturgy Garden is now complete just in time for the school's 45th anniversary. Most Rev. Vincent M. Rizzotto dedicated and blessed the Stations of the Cross at a special ceremony on August 25, 2009. Families of those remembered or honored by a Station were invited to the dedication. Guests enjoyed a reception in the Beck Athletic Center afterwards.

