

St. Thomas More School begins \$3.2 million building project

By Laura Deavers
Editor

Construction of a new building and renovation of several existing buildings has begun at St. Thomas More School.

Bishop Robert W. Muench blessed the ground at St. Thomas More School Oct. 5 at an outdoor assembly with all students, teachers and faculty present. With him were Father Tom Duhé, pastor of St. Thomas More Church in Baton Rouge, and Father Gerard Martin, pastor of St. Patrick Church in Baton Rouge. Since St. Patrick Church does not have a Catholic elementary school, elementary age students from St. Patrick attend St. Thomas More School.

Projected completion of the construction project is July 2012, in time for next school year.

The new construction will be a multifunction building that will provide a visible entrance to the school campus, new administrative offices and a new library, which will contain a media center with enhanced technologies.

Other construction will include major renovations to the fifth- and sixth-grade classroom build-

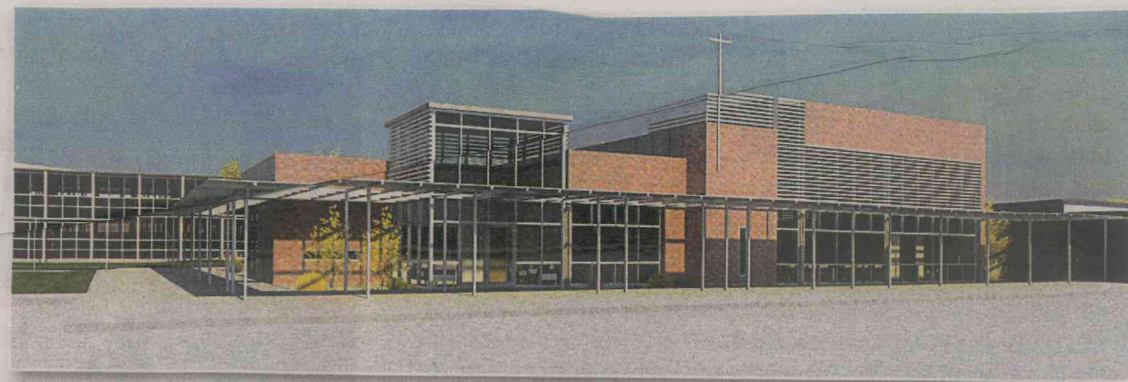
ing. The improvements to this building will focus on changing the classroom entrances from the outside to an indoor central commons area. Portions of this building will be renovated for student services, which include two new guidance offices as well as a reading resource room, a nurse's office, a nursery for faculty's children and a conference room.

The second-grade classrooms that are currently in the fifth- and sixth-grade building will be moved to the space currently occupied by the administrative offices. This office space will be renovated into classroom space, thereby bringing together the first through fourth grades in one building. For years the administrative offices have been located among classrooms in the two-story academic building. The new location at the "front door" of the campus will provide more security for the students and faculty.

A new state of the art science lab will be added in the junior high building.

And a new fence will be put up around the perimeter of the campus.

For five years, parents, school



This rendering produced by Coleman Partners Architects depicts how the new main administration building/library/media center will present a visible front door for St. Thomas More School. Photo provided by St. Thomas More School

and church leaders, and other stakeholders have been planning so the school's needs could be properly addressed.

The strategic planning process identified facility renovation and modernization as a key objective.

"The renovation and expansion project is a necessity since, with the exception of the junior high, kindergarten and cafeteria renovations and expansion, the school facilities have not been updated since they were originally constructed 50 years ago," commented St. Thomas More Principal Dr. Judy Armstrong at the ground blessing ceremony.

"With the amount of funds we have received to date, along with our pledges and diocesan-approved financing, we are able to move forward on the construction program, valued at \$3.2 million," said Armstrong.

GARAGE SALE

Saturday, Nov. 12
7 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Now is the time to clean out the garage and those closets and donate your gently used items for a great funding event!!

CYO Garage Sale

Drop items at 10555 Mollylea Dr., Baton Rouge
Call to set-up a time to drop off your donation.

Phone 225-275-3200 or 225-757-6020
No clothing PLEASE!

Watch for the Special 50th Anniversary Issue Nov. 2.