



OUR ADVENTURE IN BUILDING CHURCH

In October, 1983, Father Gerald Lewis, pastor of St. Raphael The Archangel parish, chose 40 parish members to form a committee to guide the planning, fund raising, and construction of a new Sanctuary in which this parish family could more adequately worship Almighty God. In the initial meeting, Tom Hauser and John Bezek were named Co-Chairmen.

One of the first objectives of the committee was to develop a total program to provide an appropriate worship space, and to see to the overall space needs of this community. To facilitate this, Edward A. Sovik, FAIA, was chosen as consultant. Mr. Sovik, president of Sovik, Mathre, Sathrum, Quanbeck—Architects and Planners—is a noted liturgical architect with over 200 church projects to his credit, and is a liturgical arts consultant to the American bishops. He is the author of *Architecture for Worship* and a major contributor to the American bishops' statement, "Art and Architecture in Catholic Worship." The committee reviewed current trends in the celebration of the sacraments and the design necessary to facilitate these trends.

A steering committee and nine sub-committees were formed to develop a program of requirements to meet parish needs. With the guidance of our consultant, each committee made detailed studies of our needs, which were in turn taken by the consultant and consolidated into one overall program. Over the next months this program was refined until there was consensus among the committee members. At the same time, Mr. Sovik led us in the search for an architect. Twenty-seven local, statewide and national firms were invited to submit a general proposal for St. Raphael. After studying these proposals, the committee chose seven firms to make personal and

detailed presentations. On December 16, 1984, Robert Calhoun Smith, FAIA, president of Smith, Segreti, Tepper, McMahon and Harned, Architects and Planners of Washington, D.C., was chosen as our project design architect. Mr. Smith is a member of the Sacred Arts Commission of the Archdiocese of Washington and a permanent consulting architect for both St. Matthew Cathedral and the Episcopal Cathedral in Washington, D.C. In addition to our project here at St. Raphael he has designed a number of churches in the Washington/Northern Virginia area and was responsible for the design of the outdoor altar for the 1979 Papal Visit.

Following the program of requirements, Mr. Smith presented the design which has now been skillfully executed by Clancy & Theys Construction Company of Raleigh.

In 1985, the parish conducted a very successful development campaign raising almost two million dollars in pledges. However, because of the cost of the entire project, it was decided in January 1986, to divide the project into three phases and complete only the first phase, the Sanctuary, at this time. The Chapel, organ, pastoral center and renovation of the parish hall will be completed later as funds become available. Construction was begun on July 1, 1986.

Our Sanctuary is a six-sided building approached from the parking areas on the South side, and from the Plaza on Falls of the Neuse Road. Through either main entrance, one enters a large greeting/gathering room, designated the Atrium. In this room, we begin to "form community" as we prepare to gather for worship, and we "celebrate community" as we linger after we have sung the Divine Praises. This room will be dominated by a 9' x 14' terra cotta bas