

## **An Uplifting Traditional Musical Instrument**

*The late Summer and Fall will witness the installation of our new parish pipe organ. This will be a source of great joy for St. Thomas More. The console, case and pipe work will show beautiful craftsmanship, visually enhancing our worship space. 25 ranks of pipes plus the digital tones will help us worship God with greater gusto. The document on the Sacred Liturgy from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council teaches us that “in the Latin Church the pipe organ is to be held in high esteem, for it is the traditional musical instrument, and one that adds a wonderful splendor to the Church’s ceremonies and powerfully lifts up man’s mind to God and to heavenly things.” The first parish I pastored was at St. Romuald in Hardinsburg. We installed a new 8 rank pipe organ there which totally transformed liturgical celebrations. I learned when I first came to St. Thomas More that the original plans for our new church had included a pipe organ – but like the Eucharistic/daily Mass chapel, it got cancelled with depletion of funds. I am most grateful to those who have given generously to the pipe organ fund the past four years to make this project a reality. We are still short about forty thousand dollars for the balance which will be due in the Autumn. I welcome donations you would like to contribute to the organ fund which can be made in memory of your deceased loved ones. What a great tribute this would be to our beloved dead.*

*- Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds*

### **Understanding the New Pipe Organ**

**Console – control center of the organ; the keyboards, pedalboard, and stop knobs are the key console elements**

**Case – attractive wooden housing surrounding the pipework; the hard surfaces help project the pipe sound**

**Pipework – organ pipes; made of metal or wood; the façade are the largest pipes visible in front of the case with the remainder behind them inside the organ case**

**Rank – consists of one pipe for each note of the 61 key organ keyboard; each complete rank is called a stop; each stop has 61 pipes of various sizes - the longer the pipe, the lower the pitch**

**Digital tones – provides sound for selected lowest octaves of a rank which are the largest and most expensive pipes; provides sound of an entire rank of imitative (solo) sounds**

*In our new organ the “backbone” choruses will be pipework supplemented with digital tones in the lower octaves of selected stops with several solo stops being completely digital.*

**For more in depth information about pipe organs visit the website [pipeorgan@ibiblio.org](mailto:pipeorgan@ibiblio.org) . Here you will find:**

- ❖ **An overview of organs**
- ❖ **A discussion on how the sound is produced**
- ❖ **A closer look at the pipes**
- ❖ **A resource list for further learning**