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The Capitol Crossing Project: Transforming Our Community

The face of Holy Rosary, Casa Italiana and its extended neighborhood undergoes major changes

The recent groundbreaking ceremony for the massive “Capitol Crossing” redevelopment of the area around Holy Rosary Church marked the beginning of a project that will forever change the face of Holy Rosary, Casa Italiana and its extended neighborhood.

The project’s immediate impact is already being felt, with the loss of the parking lot adjacent to the church. There are many other changes in store as the church-related construction period unfolds over the next three years.

“It will not be easy,” said Fr. Ezio Marchetto, “but it will result in a greater improvement of the whole area and a great opportunity for our church community.”

The \$1.3 billion Capitol Crossing project will develop the space above Interstate 395, including the area next to and behind Holy Rosary and extending to the Georgetown University Law Center. The huge 7-acre construction site will eventually be home to 2.2 million square feet of commercial, retail, residential, parking garages and public spaces, in the area often called the East End. (Reports are that Eataly, the restaurant and purveyor of Italian foods partly owned by Chef Mario Batali, is planning to open there.)

The project creates five new buildings on three new city blocks, revitalizing the area for pedestrians, bicyclists and traffic along Massachusetts Ave. and reconnecting the area more directly to the Capitol. Developers said that was L'Enfant's original design, before the construction of I-395 split the areas creating an awkward and unsightly separation.

The entire project is slated for completion by the end of 2019, although the Holy Rosary portion should be completed within three years. What does it all mean for the parish? The church and Casa Italiana will remain intact. The current rectory will be demolished and a new one constructed behind the church. An open, well-landscaped piazza will be created behind



Rendering of Holy Rosary and Casa Italiana and the new rectory and offices behind them. An outdoor piazza, not visible here, will be created behind the new buildings.

the new rectory. The site of the old parking lot and rectory will become an extension of F Street. Holy Rosary will also get a new neighbor: the Adas Israel Synagogue, Washington's first synagogue, now a mu-

seum, will be moved from its current home farther north on Third St. to the corner of F St. and Third St.

For photos of the early years of Holy Rosary and renderings of its future, please turn to pages 6 and 7.

Lido Civic Club Honors Longtime Teacher Liliana Lanzano

Casa Italiana Language School teacher, Liliana Lanzano, who recently celebrated her 92nd birthday, was honored by the Lido Civic Club at its recent annual scholarship reception held at the Italian Embassy. That same evening the Lido Club, in conjunction with the National Italian American Foundation, also

presented scholarship awards totalling \$50,000 to deserving Italian American students.

Liliana Fierro Lanzano was honored for her more than 50 years of dedicated service to the teaching of Italian in the Washington, D.C. area. Born in Naples in 1923, she studied there and in Rome, where she re-

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