

A Labor of Love

In 1989, St. Ann Catholic Parish was still a fledgling congregation. Founded in 1984, the church spent its first five years meeting in the old Methodist church building in Old Town Coppell and later in a school gym when the congregation grew. Groundbreaking on their current location was held in 1988, with the first Mass being held in the building the following year. Working on a budget close to zero, members improvised to make the church a home.

When Linda Beste found a dilapidated swing set behind the old Methodist church building, she brought her 72-year-old father, the son of a carpenter, out to assess the damage. From his wheelchair, he declared the redwood salvageable, so Beste loaded the piece into her van and hauled it home.

With no blueprints, Beste placed a call to the manufacturer requesting a catalog with a picture of the set. When it arrived she used the image as her guide and set about the restoration in her garage. By the time she finished she had caught pneumonia from the cold, restored the swings set, and for good measure sewed an awning, all to create a playground for the new building.

Through similar stories of sweat and grit, St. Ann became the largest parish in the Dallas Diocese of the Catholic Church.

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