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Dear Friends,

I want to take advantage of the Thanksgiving Day weekend to express my gratitude to all of you for your generous and ongoing support.

The <u>photos section</u> of the website has been updated and improved. I invite you to visit it. Browsing through these pictures, one can see how much was accomplished thanks to your unwavering commitment to the Copper Ridge Conference Centre project. Now, we are just a few months away of seeing our dream turn into a reality.

I would also like to express my gratitude for making the fundraising dinner at the Sun Sui Wa Seafood Restaurant such a success. It's very encouraging to see the Conference Center project receive so much support. Your generosity is much appreciated. A special thank-you to the organizing committee for all their hard work.

For those interested, beautiful photos of the dinner are available <u>here</u>. A big thank-you to Carlo, our volunteer photographer, for a great job.

Best Regards,

Fadi

NB I thought you would enjoy reading excerpts of the nice article Gerry Duffy wrote about the dinner. The full text is available here.

"While outside the Sun Sui Wah Seafood Restaurant, the sunshine of a late summer day in Vancouver was starting to fade and the evening chill set in, inside was warmth, good cheer and conviviality as more than 300 people attended the fourth annual fundraising dinner for the Copper Ridge Conference Centre (CRCC)....

The evening began with Father Julio speaking about the mission of Copper Ridge Conference Centre followed by a prayer for the project and the blessing before the meal. We watched a short visual presentation about Opus Dei: what it is and what it does...

Mrs. Boyd gave a visual presentation and commentary on what the Conference Centre will look like and what activities will take place there. She then announced the long-awaited start of construction! To great applause, she donned a hard hat to emphasize the excitement of reaching this goal...

This was followed by an update on the financial status of the project – funds donated thus far to both the monthly campaign and the capital campaign – and how much we have yet to raise to reach our goal. This summary was frank and realistic, but also filled with supernatural optimism and hope. Participants were urged to be generous both in the material sense, with their continued and perhaps expanded financial support, and in the supernatural sense, with their prayers for its successful realization...

Dr. Yang and Mrs. Estrada gave heartfelt testimonies of their own experiences of attending retreats, relating stories of how positively their lives have been affected."

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