

Report to Parishioners Concerning Facilities

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish:

Your Parish Council hosted a number of Town Hall Meetings concerning our facilities during the week of April 26, 2015. We promised that we would report back to you within three weeks of the completion of the meetings and here we are.

We would first like to voice our appreciation to all of you who attended a meeting and to thank you all for coming to listen and offer your questions and comments. We had some very good discussions at each of our sessions. It was obvious that those in attendance understood and appreciated the need to address our facilities now. There was an openness to looking at options with an emphasis on getting the entire parish community involved in the process. This includes praying as a parish for guidance.

There were a number of items which came up during each meeting which we would like to address. First, Parish Council makes no final decisions as it concerns what will be done to or with the buildings. We, as representatives of the parishioners, simply make an informed recommendation to our pastor, Fr. Chris, who makes the ultimate decision. The assessment completed regarding the state of our buildings was the first step in our process. The second step was our Town Hall Meetings. The third step was meeting as a council and formulating a recommendation to Fr. Chris. The next step will be meeting with the Finance Council to discuss the financing of repairs and renovations.

There were some rather large dollar figures presented at the meetings regarding deferred maintenance over the next number of years and necessary renovations to make our facilities accessible to all of our parishioners and community members. The obvious question was how we would pay for any repairs and renovations. This was beyond the scope of this phase, but is an issue which we will be addressing with the Finance Council.

A number of folks indicated that they would like to see the assessment report and/or the dollar figures referred to at the meetings. The assessment report is now available on the parish website. If you do not have web access, or would like a hard copy, please contact the parish office and a copy will be provided to you.

There were questions about whether we are considering the facilities available at the other two region parishes or taking into account what the future might hold for the region. The answer is no. We are looking at the needs of Our Lady of the Rosary and our future only. Neither we nor Fr. Chris have any idea what the future might hold for the region or parishes within the region; however, all indicators point toward the stability of our parish. As good stewards, we must make a plan for our parish campus that will meet our needs for many decades to come.

Your Parish Council has recommended to Fr. Chris that all functions of the PAC and Catholic Center be consolidated into a renovated Catholic Center. We also recommended that the future of the PAC not be addressed at this time, but its use evaluated once renovations to the Catholic Center are underway.

Your Parish Council further recommended that we immediately address the needs in the church, including carpet replacement and accessibility to the sanctuary and altar. We recommended that the architect who was part of the assessment team be contacted to gauge his interest in assisting us with the church renovations and obtaining from him an estimate of the costs of his services to provide us with design options.

Fr. Chris has accepted our recommendations. We will now contact the architect for church renovations and engage our Finance Council to discuss financing options for church and Catholic Center renovations. We will also work toward determining the scope of the Catholic Center renovation. We believe that it is vitally important to keep our parishioners engaged and seek your input into the needs and wants of the various ministries and groups who use our facilities as we consider how to best utilize the space in the Catholic Center. We will also visit other parishes to see what they have done with empty school buildings and/or with renovating older buildings and are seeking folks who might be interested in joining the team charged with doing so.

One final note. This project is not the work of any one person or any one group. This is a project that will need the assistance of the entire parish. We all have gifts and talents that we can contribute. We will be asking for help, but if you have a particular gift or talent that you wish to contribute, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

If anyone has any questions, comments, and/or concerns, please contact any member of Parish Council. Names and contact information are on the parish website and on the bulletin board in the back of church.

Parish Council
May 21, 2015