



THE PARISHES OF SACRED HEART AND DIVINE MERCY

January 24, 2026

Dear Friends,

When developing our Strategic Plan, we provided numerous opportunities to receive input from all of you. You said that ***Renewing our Facilities for Mission is a priority***. At Sacred Heart it involves addressing critical needs from deferred maintenance. At Divine Mercy it involves completing the plan for the interior of the Church that was built ten years ago. At both parishes, it involves an opportunity to ensure that we are a strong, vibrant presence now and for generations to come.

Given the nature of our projects and the variety of styles that people like, we contracted with **Baker Architects**. They are known for their expertise in liturgical design and they are currently working with another parish nearby. We asked Baker to come up with a concept that will work in our spaces. A concept is an idea that requires further adjustments. A plan is a defined course of action ready for implementation. Right now we do not have a plan. We have ***concepts***.

The concepts were introduced in December and put out last week in Town Hall Meetings and on boards at each parish for questions and comments. We received great feedback. Thank you! It is summarized on the back of this sheet. There is a **capital improvements committee** at each parish that will take the feedback and work with the architects to incorporate adjustments.

The next step in *Renewing our Facilities for Mission* is to take the concepts we have and begin raising money to see what might be possible for us to do. Then we can fine tune the concepts and develop a ***plan***. There are things we need to do and things we would like to do to address accessibility, functionality, hospitality, beauty, safety, and efficiency. The things we need to do sometimes create a “domino effect” and lead to other things we probably should do or the end result will not look right.

As we raise money for *Renewing our Facilities for Mission*, we will continue to provide **updated concepts and opportunities for feedback** in order to develop the final plan. Please stay tuned. We value your input!

This is certainly an exciting time at our parishes! In fact, when I showed two former pastors of Sacred Heart the concepts we currently have, Msgr. Bill said, “Wow! This is exciting!” and Fr. Prior said, “The renovations honor the past while providing great hope for the future!” Likewise, Fr. Celentano, the former pastor of Divine Mercy who built the church, said, “The proposed enhancements are a fitting way to celebrate the coming tenth anniversary of the dedication of Divine Mercy Church!” Many of you offered similar comments.

Therefore, let us continue to entrust this priority of our strategic plan to the Lord so that he will “prosper the work of our hands” (Ps 90:17).

In Christ,

Rev. Christopher R. Seibt
Pastor

Thank You for Your Feedback!

December 6th/7th - Introduction of *Renewing our Facilities for Mission*

Feedback was received through verbal comments that were overwhelmingly positive.

January 14th - Town Hall Meetings at Sacred Heart

102 people attended

27 questions asked / comments made

Questions ranged from nuts-and-bolts issues of cost, construction, and functionality to broader reflections on beauty, worship, and the Church's mission.

Comments ranged from some reservations about specific design elements and costs to enthusiastic affirmation of the proposal's beauty and spiritual impact.

January 15th - Town Hall Meetings at Divine Mercy

80 people attended

49 questions asked / comments made

Questions ranged from clarifying whether the proposal was conceptual or final, to detailed concerns about capacity, costs, fundraising, construction timelines, maintenance, acoustics, accessibility, heating, flooring, and how worship would continue during renovations.

Comments ranged from personal attachments to existing elements of the church to hopeful reflections on how renewed beauty could deepen prayer, welcome people in, and sustain the parish for generations.

January 17th / 18th - Comment Cards at Sacred Heart

16 cards returned

13 questions asked

Questions ranged from safety and code compliance (fire exits and circulation) to liturgical and design concerns (placement of the baptismal font, architectural style, finishes, Stations of the Cross, and the presence of a crying room), as well as practical considerations regarding cost, phasing, timelines, restroom capacity, and where Masses will be held during construction.

14 comments made

Comments ranged from concern about specific design choices to appreciation for the overall vision, beauty, and desire that the renovated church remain welcoming, functional, and prayerful.

Significant positive verbal feedback

January 17th / 18th - Comment Cards at Divine Mercy

11 cards returned

10 questions asked

Questions ranged from specific details about existing features to concerns about costs, financing, construction timelines, closures, and design changes.

12 comments made

Comments ranged from attachment to the current church and concerns about preserving its character, simplicity, and color scheme to support for targeted improvements such as flooring and the rectory.

Numerous positive verbal comments

Visit www.sh-dm.org/parishes-on-mission to view frequently asked questions.