

St. Brendan recently conducted a feasibility study, with broad parish engagement, to better understand the needs of our growing community—especially the need for a larger church and additional new or repurposed spaces. We partnered with CCS Fundraising to conduct interviews, distribute surveys, and develop a case for support that reflects where St. Brendan stands today and what lies ahead.

On June 16, these findings were presented to our Development Team and parish leadership. In our continued commitment to transparent and meaningful communication, I want to share those results with you.

In a parish of 5,000 families, just over 18% participated in the study. Responses reflected a wide range of life stages and Catholic cultural backgrounds. Overall, feedback was overwhelmingly positive regarding our parish community, clergy, apostolates, and continued growth. At the same time, key challenges were identified, including limited space, the music and sound system, the aesthetic beauty of the sanctuary, weekend support staff, and communication regarding the Family Park development.

The vast majority of participants indicated that expanding and enhancing parish space is the most impactful need identified through the study. In addition, more than 85% expressed willingness to support a future campaign—both financially and through engagement with others.

## **What does this mean?**

The study clearly confirms a significant need for expanded and improved space, increased support, and clearer communication about the status of the Family Park.

To address some of these challenges, I want to share the following updates:

- 1) The music and sound system is currently being upgraded, and speakers have been removed from behind the altar.
- 2) Additional weekend support staff have been hired to improve presence on campus during Masses and parish activities.

Regarding the Family Park development, I would like to offer a current update. A full design plan has been completed, encompassing the entire vision for the park. However, after reviewing the funds collected to date alongside total projected costs, we have decided to move forward with only select elements at this time. Beginning in August, construction will focus on the field and gazebo structure. These additions will provide valuable space for gathering, recreation, and community life.

As for the possibility of additional space and a new sanctuary, further research and discernment are needed. While the study indicates potential financial support for a campaign, the scope and timing require careful evaluation. With the launch of an Archdiocesan Capital Campaign earlier this year (in which all parishes are required to participate), our decreasing debt from prior expansion, and our responsibility for prudent stewardship, we will take the coming weeks to develop a comprehensive plan. This process will include:

- Finance Council review
- Additional data analysis
- Clear and ongoing communication with the parish
- Preliminary campaign planning
- Consultation with the Archdiocese

This potential campaign is not something we intend to rush. Rather, it is a mission we undertake together in faith. Through prayer, dialogue, and trust in God's providence, we move forward—not because we have all the answers, but because God perfects what we offer. We bring our prayers, generosity, and willingness; He provides what is needed.

Further updates on a comprehensive plan will be communicated clearly and in a timely manner.

In Christ,  
Father Scott Reilly, LC  
Pastor