

Dear Parishioners,

Approximately two years ago, parishioners participated in a parish-wide survey to identify the most pressing needs of our Parish. Among those needs were concerns over our worship space. The feedback consistently highlighted several concerns:

- . An aging air-conditioning system that is increasingly unreliable.
- . Safety concerns related to the flooring and access to the sanctuary.
- . A sound system and acoustics that make it difficult for many to hear clearly during Mass
- . A church environment that many described as being too dark.
- . Sanctuary space too small to accommodate safely our liturgical needs

These concerns became the foundation for future planning.

A Parish Strategic Planning Committee was formed to reflect on the survey results and consider how these needs might best be addressed. The committee envisioned a comprehensive renovation that would respond to these concerns while preparing our parish for the future. As planning progressed, it became clear that the original scope of the renovation would be financially beyond what was realistic for our parish at this time.

The Strategic Planning Committee consulted various professionals in the field including architects, liturgical design consultants, and acoustic engineers. We have been working with St Jude Liturgical Design, to present the parish with ideas for renovating and updating the main church and address the issues that had been identified. Some of the results from our consultations are:

- Our air conditioning system has been analyzed and needs to be replaced. We have hired civil engineers and received three estimates from various companies. The system is quite old and may not last much longer. This would be replaced with a more efficient system that will regulate the temperature.
- Our sanctuary is not safe and is not code compliant. Several people have already fallen. The steps are uneven and have different heights. The Diocese would like this to be fixed as soon as possible.
- Also, our pews are old and need replacing to be more comfortably spaced and more comfortable overall.
- A sound engineer, Reidel Sound, was recently hired to do a sound analysis for the church. This would include a special sound loop for the hard of hearing.

The goal is to close the church for no more than 4 months and to renovate both the sanctuary and the air conditioning at the same time. The Masses would be held in the PLC during the 4 months.

We have been working with the Diocesan Building Commission and Diocesan Director of Liturgy to assure we are compliant with the directives and regulations required. Eventually, we will need the bishop's approval to proceed, and we will need to engage in fund-raising to cover the cost of the project.

The current drawings are proposals and not final. I am sharing them so that parishioners have an opportunity to review them, ask questions, and offer thoughtful feedback. Your comments, suggestions, and concerns are important as we continue this process.

I am committed to ensure that our church remains beautiful, safe, welcoming, and a prayerful place for worship for many years to come. I would like to hear from you!

In Christ,

Fr. Jose Kulthinal, CMI
Pastor

