



Do You Hear What I Hear? These were the words that captured our attention during the past six weeks inviting us to begin Advent in a very special way. I thank everyone who participated in and attended this event sponsored by our Evangelization Committee last Sunday evening. It was a beautiful night of hospitality, song and prayer that help set the right tone to begin the Advent season. Many people from other faiths and parishes told Father Kean and I how they appreciated all that was done. To all of you- **Thank You!!**

I will continue discussing the work of the Church Exploratory Committee. I have shared in previous columns the elements that the committee members and Pastoral Council members hoped to see in either a renovated/expanded church or a new church. My previous columns on this can be found on our parish website at www.stjoesdtown.org under **Church Exploratory Committee**.

After we put together this wish list, Casaccio Architects worked with the committee bi-weekly for many months to draw up what a renovated/expanded church would look like with these elements incorporated and also how a new church would appear. This process involved workshops with various designs and floor plans. Some evenings these meetings went for almost four hours. The committee members have been selfless in this task.

Engineers were consulted to see how and if the church could be expanded. A site survey needed to be done since there was not one on file here at the parish. This was needed to determine what could be done within the space of our parish grounds.

In all the various discussions, the driving thoughts were always the following; church should have a traditional look, a community feel and when a person entered, they should be immediately aware they are entering the presence of God. These were the foundations for all of the work done by the committee. Of course, any input or comments from parishioners to a committee member were also taken into account.

Next week, I will discuss the results of the architectural feasibility study.

God Bless You All!

Monsignor Lynn

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