



I hope by now you have had the opportunity to review the renderings of the proposed new church. The structure, shape and design are proposed while the interior appointments such as lighting, pews, and art still need much discussion. The results of the Feasibility Study will be available in 4-6 weeks. The results will be presented at a parish meeting which will be announced in the parish bulletin.

The Church Exploratory Committee is responsible for the work done so far. I take this opportunity to thank the members of the committee for the time and expertise they have offered throughout this process since November 2007. They are: Mike Brennan, Peg Cassidy, Dan Castaldi, Mike Desiderio, Brian Mace, Dominic Nappi, Tina Perelli, Tony Quiroz, Nancy White, Joe Wusinich. If the decision is to move forward, many more committees and people will be needed to bring this design to reality.

There are several observations I want to make regarding the renderings now that you have had a chance to see them:

- The committee hoped to do three things: reflect the treasured history of our parish; design a more traditional style church; and retain an intimacy in the interior of the church.
- Our present church seats 850. The proposed church would seat 1200.
- Presently, our heat and/or air conditioning need to run 24/7. The proposed church has a daily Mass chapel which seats 175. The heat and air could be kept at a minimum in the main church during the week and be more cost and energy efficient.
- The stained glass windows are from Most Blessed Sacrament Church in West Philadelphia which closed last summer. They are traditional stained glass and depict scenes from the life of Christ.
- The narthex (entrance) will be large enough for people to meet and socialize allowing the church to be a place of prayer and quiet.
- The multi-purpose room is for the various sales that take place after Mass.
- The bathrooms are much larger and handicap accessible.
- A program such as Children's Church can happen where the children leave Mass for the Liturgy of the Word and return at the Offertory. The chapel and rooms off the narthex can be used for this program.
- There are over 100 more parking spaces and a well designed parking lot.
- We could use the current church while the new one is being built so there will be no disruptions for regular Masses, weddings, and funerals.
- If we raise enough money a small rectory might be built on parish grounds. It does not have to be as large as the present one because our offices are now located in the Holy Family Center and we have fewer priests assigned here. We could also rent or lease a home nearby until a more permanent solution is determined.

The estimated cost of the proposed church is between \$8.4 and \$9.2 million. The estimated costs for renovation and expansion were between \$8.2 and \$9.1 million. This number may seem daunting but if everyone pulls together and does their part, it can be done.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask me, Father Kean or any members of the Church Exploratory Committee. Keep an eye on the bulletin for the date and time of the parish meeting.

God Bless You All!

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