



This week, I continue with the discussion of the work of the Church Exploratory Committee. To remind you, we commissioned Cassacio Architects to do an architectural feasibility study to determine if the present church could be expanded and renovated and the costs associated with that as well as the costs associated with building a new Church. In order to do the study the architects needed input from the

committee as to what elements they felt were needed in either a renovated/expanded church or a new church.

Last week, I discussed the following elements that the committee came to agreement upon: adequate seating, adequate narthex, daily Mass chapel, adequate sacristy and storage space and additional rooms and facilities. If you missed last week's column, it is on line at our parish web site. This week, I will continue presenting these elements.

Style- The committee agreed the church should be more traditional in style, made of stone and wood in the look of Chester County.

Shape- If the church were renovated/expanded, it would be octagonal, similar to the current shape. If new, the church would be traditional and cruciform in shape. The interior seating would still have a community feel to it and the wings could allow for expansion if the parish continues to grow years later.

Sanctuary and Reredos- A reredos is traditionally the wall behind the altar that completes the sanctuary. The committee felt the altar, ambo (pulpit) and the tabernacle support should all be made of marble. The tabernacle would be in the center of the sanctuary. The crucifix would remain prominent. The entire sanctuary would be modest in size. The reredos would be made of marble and stone. The committee did feel a good quality wood could be used where appropriate in the interior of the Church because of our patron Saint Joseph, a carpenter. The committee also felt that as many of the things that could be used from the present church should be used in a renovated/expanded or new church.

Stained Glass Windows- A few months ago, Most Blessed sacrament Parish in West Philadelphia closed. The Church had beautiful stained glass windows depicting scenes in the life of Christ. We were fortunate to be able to put a hold on ten of those windows for possible use in a renovated/expanded or new church. We have also been able to hold two stained glass windows from the old Saint Ladislaus Church depicting Saint Joseph and Saint Anthony. These latter windows are from the same church from which the windows in our adoration chapel came.

Next week I will discuss the remaining elements the committee discussed and the architectural feasibility study.

This coming week, November 17-22, I will be on retreat. I will remember all of you in my prayers this week. Please pray for me that this retreat for me will bear good fruit. Take it easy on Father Kean this week!

Monsignor Lynn

God Bless you All!

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