



I thank all of you who participated in the Life Chain held last weekend. Those who came out provided a powerful witness to belief in the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death. I do recommend to all parishioners participation in *Forty Days for Life* on October 15. Further details are provided elsewhere in this bulletin.

On November 7, 2007, I called the first meeting of the Church Exploratory Committee to study our church building. I have provided updates to the parish community through the Sunday bulletin and through the Parish Newsletter that is sent to every registered household in the parish. Since we are all bombarded with information everyday, I do not expect everyone to remember the information that has been communicated to this date about the committee. Therefore, in this column during the coming weeks, I will review with you the work of the committee so that all active parishioners are fully informed and prepared for the consultation with parishioners.

I reiterate first the reasons for having a committee study the church. There were several reasons:

Demographics – The parish continues to grow. We are now back over 4,000 families. In Baptisms alone this current year, we have baptized almost 40 more babies than this time last year. Looking ahead, will the church be adequate to handle the number of parishioners. There are no plans on the part of the Archdiocese to found any new parishes from our territory.

Priests- The number of priests in the archdiocese continues to decline. In four short years our parish has gone from having a pastor with three assistants to a pastor with one assistant. Presently, there is no great increase in priestly vocations on the horizon. There is a need to consider fewer Masses with more seating capacity.

Adequate Prayer and Gathering Space (Narthex) - Presently, there is no place for parishioners to gather before or after Mass. Consequently, it is difficult to have a spirit of prayer and quiet in Church. Respect for the Blessed Sacrament, although not intentional, is lacking.

Parking - Many parishioners express a desire to gather after mass for fellowship. Our parking situation exacerbates this desire. In general, there is not adequate parking for a good number of the Masses. Parking for PREP teachers and parents picking up their children is also inadequate.

Storage - There is no adequate storage space in Church.

Children's Liturgy of the Word and Other Programs - There is no place for such programs to take place at the church site at this present time. The parking lot is too dangerous to have the children go to school and return in a timely fashion for the rest of Mass.

History - I have been told by parishioners who were here at the time that Father Fenerty, the pastor when the church was built did not feel the seating capacity was adequate and told the Archdiocese so at the time.

System Breakdowns - The building is now a little over forty years old. The electrical system needs extensive work. The sound system is aging and very unreliable. The rugs need to be replaced. The cry room needs major overhaul. The bathroom facilities need complete renovation.

These are the reasons I established the church exploratory committee. Next week, I will begin to discuss the actual work of the committee and the steps that have been taken.

Monsignor Lynn

God bless you all!

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