



Last week, I reiterated the reasons for establishing the Church Exploratory Committee. This week I wish to begin to share the work of the committee over this past year. The names of the committee have been published on our website since the committee's inception but for those who may not have access to a computer, the members are: Michael Brennan, Peg Cassidy, Daniel Castaldi, Michael Desiderio, Brian Mace, Dominic Nappi, Tina Perelli, Tony Quiroz, Nancy White, Joe Wusinich, and Julie Wiant, Parish Services Director.

The task of the committee was to examine the present and future needs of the parish. Issues that needed to be studied were: structural issues with the present building; demographical studies for the parish territory; engineering studies; liturgical issues and norms; and financial concerns. The committee was tasked to advise me regarding the following options: cleanup/ fix up the present church building; expand and renovate the present church; build a new church.

Committee members began their work by visiting both individually and as a group various renovated and new churches throughout the archdiocese and especially in our local area. I met and consulted with various pastors of both renovated and new churches. Members of local church committees met with us and gave us a thorough look at all the challenges they met in their work.

Not too far into the process, after examining demographics showing continued growth in the Catholic population in the parish territory and the shortage of available clergy, the committee recommended that we eliminate studying the option of just painting and fixing the current church building. In the end, this is all that we may be able to do but we thought it best to do our homework on all the possible options.

To assist us in this work, we interviewed various architects who have done this sort of work in the archdiocese. After interviewing a number of architects, the committee decided to ask Casaccio Architects of Havertown to assist us in this process. The committee chose this firm because of their philosophy of "Mission Driven Design" meaning that the design and work is done tailored to the mission of the institution requesting the work.

Next week, I will discuss the process used in exploring the options of renovation and expansion and building new.

Monsignor Lynn

God bless you all!

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