



Please note that this issue of the bulletin includes a letter from the Bishops of Pennsylvania plus a voter's guide on the presidential candidates and their positions. The bishops state they do not endorse any candidate or party. Their role is to teach and form consciences.

Also, next Monday, October 27th, the parish will host Susan Vadas from the Respect Life Office who will present the document *Faithful Citizenship* published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as an instrument to help all faithful Catholics form their consciences on moral and ethical issues.

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As I mentioned last week, the Church Exploratory Committee chose Casaccio Architects of Havertown to assist us in the process of exploring the options of renovation and expansion of the present Church or building a new church. We commissioned an architectural feasibility study to be done which would provide possible designs and cost estimates regarding each option.

The firm met with the committee over several months to help refine the committee members' thinking as to what they wished to see in church whether renovated or new. The committee first had to determine what functions, programming and size of spaces were called for keeping in mind our parish size and the mission of the parish. The Committee was asked to develop a wish list as to what elements in a church would help enhance our worship of God and the liturgies and programs that would take place. Once these lists were developed, the firm would guide the committee through several workshops to build the concepts that were needed for design of a renovated or new church.

I was clear from the beginning that whatever we do, the church should be a place that when we enter it, we should be immediately aware that we are entering into the presence of God.

Lee Casaccio and Don Garber from the firm led the committee through many discussions. Part of the firms' work was to help us maintain consistency in our decisions. There was open and honest discussion among the members of the committee. Most of the late spring and summer months were spent discussing what elements should be included in a renovated or new church.

There was fairly quick agreement that the committee was hoping to keep the community feel of the present church with however, a much more traditional look and style to the church. The Committee also wanted to incorporate some elements or style from the original church in Johnstown. Next week, I will explain in more detail the various elements on which the committee came to agreement.

Monsignor Lynn

God Bless You All!

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