



# St. Catherine of Siena Church

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April 5, 2011

Dear Parish Family,

I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on the recent Parish forum about the future of the Parish Center. First of all, I'd like to thank all who participated in and facilitated the forum. A bit of history, there was a *Property Condition Report* done in 2007 which found that the Church and the Parish Center were generally in good condition with a few exceptions: the roofs on both buildings were deteriorating indicating deferred maintenance, windows in poor condition, both buildings slipped behind with respect to the evolving building practices, neither building met current energy standards, poor telecommunication systems which although functional showed signs of imminent failure. Clearly some things needed to be done. After an extensive 2008 *Feasibility and Conceptual Design Study*, several proposals were presented to the Parish. After a number of surveys and forums and announcements, the community agreed to address the immediate concerns of the Church proper and then to have a secondary phase for the development of the Parish Center.

I spent this past week finding and reviewing all of that material. It was very comprehensive: you did a lot of work and you should be very proud of the work that you accomplished! Well done you! But, because there's always a 'but', we're not done. I believe that the Facilities Projects Steering Committee, Pastoral Council, and Finance Council have clearly articulated that we will have to either renovate or build a new Parish Center in the near future. I assure you that as we move forward there will be some scary facts revealed; however, WE WILL NOT BE MOTIVATED OUT OF FEAR! It should come to no surprise to anyone that there is a lack of ordained ministers (priests) which is one of many things that impact our pastoral planning. What's new here is that, within the next five to ten years, we will feel that shortage in a more significant way—a large percentage of active priests in our diocese will retire within this timeframe. This is not what is motivating us, this is merely new data. We've known for several years that the Parish Center is in dire need of attention. This new information empowers us to re-examine the purpose and function of the Parish Center, hence, another forum. Our modus operandi is to insure that we do everything within our power to create a vital Catholic presence in this area without detriment to other faith communities. St. Catherine's has unique charisms, quite unlike that of the surrounding faith communities. The purpose of the forum was to flesh out that charism and to build the Parish Center around that charism to help this community be a vital asset to the broader community. This new venture is not really about our own survival but about responding to GOD'S call to enact the kingdom in this particular geographic region at this particular time. What God is asking of us in this time is different from what God asked the founders of this community. This is not about competing with other faith communities but rather about complimenting them by embracing our own charism! Even though I've only been with you for a few months, I feel quite confident in saying that one of the greatest assets of this community are its people, of whom I am honored and privileged to serve.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Joseph Marcoux  
Pastor

*A vibrant Catholic community where all are welcomed, challenged and supported in their life journey.*