

**Joint Pastoral Council and Finance Council Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2011**

Attending: Mary Kay Anderson, Mary Boris, Kristin Campagnolo, Beth Carroll, Kerry Curran, Erin Fetsko, Frank Fetsko, Ann Gifford, Eileen Gravani, Rick Hartman, Kristin Lynch, Father Joe Marcoux, Mary Lee Noden, Dianne Orcutt, Bill Perkins, Colleen Perkins, Nancy Pringle, Mike Redlin, Janet Strebel, Beverly Way, Christine Williams, Jay Williamson

Excused: Carl Franck

The following are the minutes that relate to Facilities Project Issues

Father Joe welcomed everyone and thanked them for their interest and commitment to St. Catherine of Siena Parish.

Mike Redlin represented the Facilities Planning Steering Committee (FPSC) in the presentation to the Finance Council and the Pastoral Council.

Opening Remarks: Mike indicated that the FPSC has been working three years now as part of a two-step process that was decided upon in 2009. The first step was to repair the church, with small repairs to the parish center roof. The mold problem in the parish center was also addressed. At this time, the FPSC is beginning the second step in the process by initially addressing the leadership of the parish.

Context: The current Parish Center of St. Catherine of Siena Parish has multiple problems, particularly the roof. It was built for a previous era, with a priest's residence attached to the center. That residence has now been converted to offices but is inefficient and some meeting rooms lack privacy. Additionally, we are out of space, particularly on Sunday mornings.

The parish also needs to look towards the future in planning a new parish center. We need to consider how we can meet our parishioners' needs and continue to inspire them.

Diocesan Building Commission Guidelines: There is a new process in place since July 1, 2011. In the first step, the conceptual plan is presented to the Board of Consulters, a group of priests from the diocese. They review the information and make a recommendation to the Bishop. This must be done before fundraising and planning goes any further at the parish level.

Demographic trends: Information on demographics and projections for the diocese, Tompkins County and the parish were presented. The population within St. Catherine of Siena Parish is growing, with a projected increase of 3.9% from 2010 - 2015.

Presentation of draft plan to the Covenanting Council: The Conceptual Plan was presented to the Council. The responses were varied, ranging from fearfulness, to caution about overbuilding to respect that St. Catherine of Siena is an active and growing parish.

Informal gatherings with some parishioners: The majority of feedback indicated mid to high interest in the project.

Updated Project: The project is based on 2015 dollars rather than 2010, since costs are rising. Budget estimates included two possible sizes and two possible levels of quality.

Funding: Sources of funding were indicated with potential ranges.

The Conceptual Plan was presented, focusing on four elements. These were: programs; building; finances; and timetable for specific activities.

After a brief question and answer session, the group divided into several smaller groups, mixing membership of the two Councils within the small groups. The groups discussed the information and then summarized the information they discussed for the larger group. Some of the questions or issues were:

- Questions about the cost? Could it be underestimated? (Response: no, the cost have been thoroughly reviewed and also compared to previous estimates.)
- Should the Conceptual Plan indicate the parish center physically connected to the church? (There are some cost concerns.) (Response: At this time, we would like to include the physical connection. It is important to the community building aspect of the parish. If cost is prohibitive, this could be revised.)
- There needs to be a clear statement about the need for significant repairs to the current building. (Response: That can be added.)
- Concern was expressed about the uncertainty. Although we make decisions as a parish, the diocese also makes decisions that will have an impact on us. (Response: That is a real concern. However, lack of planning or taking action will also have consequences for us.)
- Fifty years ago, the parish founders had courage and faith to come together and build our current facilities. We need to have that same courage and faith.

There was unanimous support for the Conceptual Plan and the need to move ahead.

Minutes Submitted By:

Eileen Gravani

11/29/11