



UPDATE

BUILDING FAITH FAMILY FUTURE

Looking ahead: the next 50 years

Dear St. Hyacinth Family,

We promised to keep you informed with the progress of our Capital Campaign, so here is the launch of our first newsletter to do so. The Steering Committee met with the Campaign Committees on Dec. 1 in the kick-off meeting.

Fifty-five parishioners attended. Those who were not already assigned to a specific committee chose which committee(s) they wanted to work with: **Prayer, Events, Thanks, Youth, Ambassadors or Communications.** All the committees vowed to recruit more members. If you're interested in joining us, you'll find the committee descriptions — and their contact information — in this newsletter.

As for your chairpersons, we spent much of the past two weeks listening to you, taking your questions even though we might not have many answers for you at this point.

Not surprisingly, not all of the questions we fielded were about building and funding a new church. We heard many questions about church finances, church decision-making and church hierarchy. We fielded questions about Mass and liturgy, about ministries and faith formation.

They were all very good questions. We fielded concerns, too. And a few outright complaints, but, frankly, very few.

No, we don't have all the answers yet. We can comment on a few things, though.

The Master Plan is just that: a plan.

It's a needs assessment, looking ahead to the next 50 years of St. Hyacinth. When you look at it that way, it's very clear our current facilities aren't adequate for St. Hyacinth's Centennial. And the longer we wait, the more expensive it will be to build.

The Master Plan is intended to be our legacy to future generations. What's a legacy? It's how you want to be remembered.

What you see pinned to wall of the Narthex is an artistic rendering of our needs assessment, not actual architectural schematics.

The Master Plan Committee's work is finished. The next phase of the process is in the hands of the Building Committee.

Architectural plans next

Some very preliminary architectural drafts and elevations are now in the hands of the Building Committee. Expect many renditions before anything is finalized design-wise. Even then, you can expect even more renditions as cost considerations are applied. It's far too early to show you the architects' work. (We haven't seen it.)

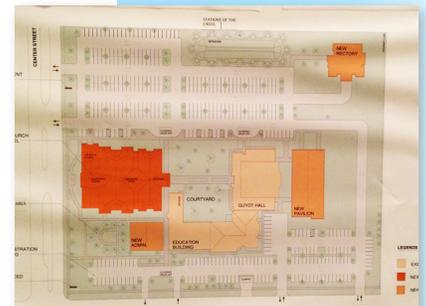
In January, the Building Committee will begin meeting with a consulting contractor to start talking about costs. That's when the back-and-forth between the Building Committee and the architects will begin in earnest. They have a lot of groundwork to cover before any sort of presentation can be made.

With that presentation, we will all have a better understanding of how much money we need to raise. If we don't raise it all at once, remember: Rome wasn't built in a day.

Why did we do a "Needs Assessment"?

The church is showing its old age. Have you

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Photos, from top: Father Reginald Samuels and Mark Leggett, consultant for Church Development, a company which guides stewardship-based capital campaigns, kick off the Dec. 1 Capital Campaign meeting. Campaign co-chairs Jim and Jan Townsend. Margie Gullede, a member of both the Building Committee and Capital Campaign, explains details of plan so far.

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noticed that whenever it rains, a puddle forms between the choir riser and the altar sacristy? Did you know that until relatively recently, when the ACs were pulling humidity out of the classrooms, it would drain from an evaporator tube that protruded from the ceiling, aimed over a sink in one of the men's bathrooms? It was someone's stopgap solution to a problem – until it began draining with the full-bore force of a garden hose.

More than a year ago, Father Reginald explained in more than one homily that our finances had reached a tipping point: Upkeep maintenance costs were eating away at our savings.

What would you do when the cost of keeping something running – an appliance, a car, a house – exceeded its value? You start planning for a new one.

How we got to where we are

While many of you have expressed frustrations about communications, we can tell you that no decisions were made in a vacuum. We don't hold the property deed on St. Hyacinth. It belongs to the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. And everything about St. Hyacinth – our facilities, our finances, our stewardship – is reported upward.

Taking much into consideration — the projected growth of Deer Park, looking at the median annual income of about \$75,000, looking at the population of self-described Catholics in this city (18 percent — the single largest denomination) and St. Hyacinth being the only Catholic church in Deer Park proper, our archbishop, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, determined that St. Hyacinth should rebuild to meet future needs. When Bishop John Morkovsky decided in 1965 that a parish should be built here, residents rallied to raise \$440,000 to build St. Hyacinth. It was a lot of money in 1965 – about \$3.3 million in 2015 dollars. The Church is counting on us to rally to her side once more.

Who decided who would sit on committees?

This is a question we've heard a few times – even before the Master Plan. In the U.S., Catholic parishes are run by the Pastor. He appoints two standing committees – a finance council and a pastoral council – and as many ad hoc committees as he determines he needs. He also determines the length of their terms. Depending on the committee, their role is either to advise or to carry out the Pastor's plans for the parish. This was set forth by the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops more than 25 years ago. Many of you will remember that until Father Reginald's arrival, our pastoral council members were elected by the congregation – much like some of our Protestant brethren – even though the U.S. bishops had promulgated other rules nearly two decades before.

We have more to write about, but, in full disclosure, it's past deadline and past bedtime. We'll keep you posted.

Yours in Christ,

Jim & Jan

CAMPAIGN LEADERS

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AT-LARGE LEADERSHIP

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CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES

Note: Committee chair names/contact information follow each description.

AMBASSADOR

These "ambassadors" will be the "contact people" for our campaign; trained to answer questions about the campaign and plans.

Lisa Jewell
tors-mom@sbcglobal.net
713-898-3993

Susan Beckham
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281-435-0917

COMMUNICATION

The members will develop a campaign slogan and logo. They will assist with newsletters, brochures, and other materials to help inform parishioners.

Mike Layton
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713-875-9370

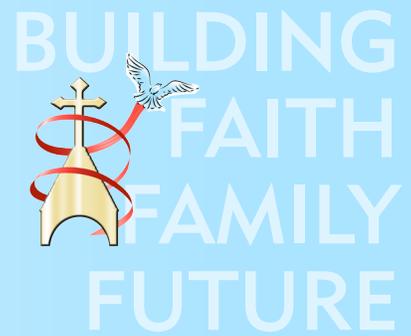
Will Hanna
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Jo Ann Zuniga-Berntsen
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EVENTS

This committee will plan possible Townhall or Open House informational meetings as well as celebrations.

Teresa Reynolds
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Bill Parkan
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Raul Turner
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PRAYER

All good things begin with prayer. This committee will organize prayer efforts to involve all those in our church to pray for God's blessings on our campaign plans and church's mission.

Susan O'Keefe
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281-851-5303

Molly Scott
mscott.444@att.net
281-479-8607

THANKS

This committee will develop appropriate ways to thank and recognize those who make a pledge to the campaign.

Jack Beckham
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713-249-8397

Don Zukero
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YOUTH

This team will focus on ways to engage and involve our young people in the campaign.

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