

January 19, 2020

Building a Church, Continuing a Mission
Core Committee Meeting Report

The first meeting of the Church Restoration Committee was held on Friday, January 10, 2020. As reported earlier, the Committee is chaired by Frank Bivona, and includes parishioners Kevin Boswell, Mary Anne Clark, Antimo Del Vecchio, Nicholas Gentile and Brian McAuley.

This initial meeting was an effort to organize the process and assignments associated with all aspects of the rebuild. The parish leadership is committed to an open and transparent process whereby we provide regular updates to the parish community through bulletin reports and a special tab on the MBS website.

As a result of the meeting, four steps have been taken to initiate the process of rebuilding our church.

First, it is essential that the parish select an architect with liturgical experience who can provide an accurate estimate of the current costs involved in rebuilding the church, including the new improvements (chapel and community center). With that in mind, the Office of Property Management of the Archdiocese of Newark has provided the committee with a list of architects who have successfully completed recent church renovations and/or additions within the Archdiocese. The committee is in the process of drafting 'requests for proposals' to these firms.

Second, the parish is currently compiling information to support its insurance claim. It will take into account the loss of the building, as well as the contents of the church and the costs that the parish has incurred as a result of the fire. The complete and accurate compilation of this information will enable the parish to secure the most comprehensive benefit possible from the insurance carriers of the Archdiocese.

Third, the parish must consider plans for its new construction. What will the new church look like? Will it be essentially the same, completely different or something in between? With that in mind, Father John Job is in the process of securing a qualified speaker who will review the liturgical concerns that go along with church construction and renovation. That workshop will be scheduled as soon as possible, and will provide some specific parameters for discussions about the design of our new church. It will also be an opportunity to seek input from the parish community. As soon as this presentation is scheduled, it will be announced in the parish bulletin and on the parish website so that all interested parishioners are able to attend.

Finally, regardless of the ultimate value of the insurance claim, it seems clear that the parish is going to need immediate funding to set the re-building process in motion. With that in mind, the Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be reaching out to everyone who contributed to the *Founded on the Past, Focused on the Future* capital campaign, seeking their permission to use, *as necessary*, the gifts and pledges previously restricted for that campaign, for this new *Building a Church, Continuing a Mission* project. Donors to the campaign will be receiving correspondence in the next ten business days regarding this issue, and should follow the enclosed directions in order to respond to this inquiry.

The next meeting of the Committee will take place in less than two weeks, on January 31. Another update on the progress of the Committee's work will appear in the bulletin for the weekend of February 8-9.