

March 26, 2020
BUILDING A CHURCH...CONTINUING A MISSION
Committee Report

The third meeting of the Church Restoration Committee was held, via conference call, on Thursday, March 26, 2020.

At that time, committee chair Frank Bivona reviewed the parish's progress in the four following areas:

First, clean-up of the site of the fire began on Monday, March 23, and is expected to be substantially completed by the second week in April. An e-mail notice about the start of the work was sent to all parishioners. Unfortunately, no sacred vessels (including the tabernacle) were recovered in the clean-up effort.

Second, discussions continue with the Archdiocese regarding insurance. The two basic components of the claim remain the actual building structure itself (including code enhancements) and the replacement of the contents destroyed in the fire. The MBS staff has compiled a comprehensive summary of those contents. There are also expenses relating to "business interruption" (ie, all of the additional costs generated by having to move church services and other ministries to different locations) that will have to be considered on an "ongoing" basis.

Third, it is possible that there will be a gap between the resources the parish ultimately has in hand (from the settlement of the insurance claim, donations and pledges to the capital campaign and gifts to the church restoration) and the real cost of rebuilding the church, chapel and community center. The committee is working to create a realistic rebuilding budget in order to provide a better picture of what fundraising may yet need to be done so that the project is fully funded when work is ready to begin.

Fourth, Foresight/LAN Associates, the architectural firm engaged by Most Blessed Sacrament to lead the church rebuild, outlined a plan to develop a preliminary Schematic Design proposal based on the input of the parish. To that end, parishioners were invited to participate in one of two workshops (April 2 at 7:00 pm OR April 4 at 10:00 am) and to provide their responses to a group of questions about their experience as parishioners and, in particular, their worship experience in the old church. The responses to those questions will form the foundation of the Schematic Design report. As Father John explained in his letter of March 11, the Schematic Design report will focus on five key areas: 1) prioritizing project requirements 2) providing preliminary conceptual drawings 3) reviewing municipal code and zoning regulations 4) providing rough drawings of site plans, floor plans and elevations and 5) designing illustrative sketches and/or computer renderings). Foresight/Lan expects to deliver its Schematic Design report in June.

Because of limitations created by the coronavirus self-quarantine, and the fact that so many elements of the rebuilding program are "in process", the next Committee meeting has not been determined, but is expected to take place in late-April or early May.