

October 14, 2018 - "Phase 2" Construction to begin this Month!

GOOD NEWS! The Archdiocese has just approved our proposal for implementing Phase 2 of our capital campaign. You may recall that I wrote to you about the status of Phase 2 of our capital campaign in my September 9th column entitled "Thanking God for 38 Years of Blessings," and I quote:

"The two Councils also expressed full support for the proposed gradual implementation of Phases 2-3 of our Capital Campaign, including its first priority project: building sliding doors in the Social Hall so as to provide two additional "large" rooms for meetings when needed. This would allow us to make maximum use of our Social Hall, adding flexibility; at any time, our Social Hall could be used in its entirety (as now), or could be divided into two or three large meeting rooms. We are now proceeding with obtaining the approval of the Archdiocese. We will keep you informed."

The Archdiocese's approval of the contract for the reconfiguration of the Social Hall means that work will begin soon this month. We anticipate all will be completed before Christmas. This is the good news!

The bad news is that for the next two months we will not have access to the Social Hall (with the exception of the kitchen), and this will affect several parish activities. As already announced in an earlier weekly bulletin, we had to cancel the annual Craft Fair this November. But we will re-establish it next year. Also affected is our traditional "Breakfast with St. Nicholas." We will keep you informed as we consider use of the Narthex as a suitable location.

All other activities will continue as scheduled, including the most spirited activity for all parishioners in this Year of the Holy Spirit: **The Gift!** If you have not yet signed up for this six-week course, you can still register at www.olhoc.org and click on the image of "The Gift." Choose between the Saturday morning or Tuesday evening sessions. This course may change your life! The Holy Spirit is most powerful!

While CCD activities will continue as scheduled, use of all remaining available space will be a challenge, but I am confident that appropriate solutions will be found.

Looking ahead, we still have three projects under consideration for completing the third and final phase of our Capital Campaign:

1. Build two small meeting rooms in the back of the church
2. Build a small perpetual Adoration Chapel with 24-hour accessibility in front of the church (adjacent to the current Blessed Sacrament Chapel where we celebrate daily Mass), and
3. Put a new steeple above the Narthex.

Based on your feedback and discussions with the Parish and Finance Councils, we are no longer considering the construction of a large 2-story building along the side of the Social Hall – a change from our preliminary proposal. The goal was to provide additional meeting space. However, our internal Project Committee (chaired by Richard Potter and five parishioners, with inputs from our architect) found a more cost-effective solution by installing moveable partitions in the Social Hall to provide a flexible three-room configuration, and building two small rooms in the back of the church (one on the ground floor near Room 105, and the other on top of it on the second floor). We are most grateful for the hard work of our Project Committee, and for the productive deliberations that took place within our Parish and Finance Councils that led to their unanimous support.

Last but not least, we are most grateful for your generous participation in the Capital Campaign begun two years ago. It provided the funding required for the First Phase (Renovation of our Church completed one year ago) and this Second Phase recently approved by the Archdiocese (Reconfiguration of Social Hall). As we now begin the design of the three aforementioned projects in the third and final Phase of the Campaign, we encourage all parishioners, including those that are newcomers, to support the third stage through your monthly contributions to the Capital Campaign from now until the end of December 2019. If you have any questions, please contact me directly by phone (301-645-7112), email at pastor@olhoc.org, or see me after any Mass.

May the Year of the Holy Spirit continue to provide special blessings to all our parishioners! May God bless you and your families!

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain