



*The Little Church
with a Big Heart*

St. Mary of The Mission Catholic Church - Archdiocese of Mobile

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In last week's bulletin, I expressed three priorities are clear from our recent small group meetings. They are:

- A desire to continue working towards a more united community, promoting deeper relationships, greater communication
- A felt need to strengthen efforts of evangelization that would lead to greater personal commitment and participation
- A recognition of the need for a bigger space, that at the same time, preserves the coziness of St. Mary of the Mission.

Today, I wish to address an issue related to #3. A few days ago, we were visited by the Opelika Fire Department. They walked through each building and shared with us that soon a fire inspector would visit us to let us know what we need to do to keep our buildings safe. After examining the Andrus House, they let us know that even though the house is closed and we are not using it, considerable things would need to be done to pass an inspection. As of this writing, the inspector has not come to give us concrete details.

Since we are likely dealing with a significant investment in repairs plus what we already spend monthly on utilities and insurance, I think it appropriate that we begin a discussion about the future of this property. At this time, **I do not wish to make any decision** but rather gather more information that will allow us to make a wise decision. To that end, I wish to express the options I see, considerations to take into account and a process of looking at those options that will give us a clarity in coming to a decision.

Options

- Spend what is required to pass a fire inspection and continue with the expenditures of insurance and utilities.
- Sell the wooden floors, staircases, pocket door, stain glass windows, fireplaces and have an estimate on what it would cost to tear the building down.
- Do absolutely nothing, risking a fine and/or legal action from the city.

Considerations;

- The parish has no need of the house.
- Good stewardship

Process: I propose the following

- Inform the parish community of this reality and seek their input. You may send your thoughts to me via e-mail vhfalab@outlook.com
- Seek the input of the Parish and Finance Councils
- Obtain a proposal from a company that would buy the materials of the house and tear it down.
- Obtain the recommendations of the Archbishop.

I realize that my thoughts can be feeble. I may very well be missing other options, considerations and steps in a process for achieving more clarity. Please feel free to share anything you think that would be helpful. It will take some time to receive a proposal from a company as well as the recommendations of the Archbishop since he would want to hear what the community thinks, the insights of the Parish and Finance Councils and have the opportunity to review a proposal from a company.

Burse Club

Next weekend we will have a second collection for the Burse Club. This supports the formation of seminarians to the priesthood in the Archdiocese. Thank you for your generosity!

Promoting health practices

Please know what we are taking every step into maintaining our premises clean and sanitized by spraying the church Saturday and Sunday with Envirocleanse, which meets EPA criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. As we do our part we encourage the use of masks while in the church.

Office Closed

The office will be closed on Monday 6th.

Collections

8/31 \$2,338