

Building Project Update 8/25/2019

Clonmelians,

I would like to address a recently proposed question, update you on steps being taken toward our building project, and ask your assistance in praying that we will follow God's will for our community and future.

Diocesan Assistance

Some have asked if the diocese will provide assistance in accomplishing our building project. The answer is yes, however the assistance they provide may need clarification. Diocesan assistance includes reviewing our parish master plan, oversight of our legal and financial considerations, providing referrals for acquiring competent professionals, and providing approvals at various stages to assure that our project meets codes, is attentive to the needs of our community, and is financially viable. The diocese also provides financial assistance in the form of competitive loans to finance necessary debt.

Current Steps

The parish building committee will meet this coming Monday evening, 26 August at 6:30 PM. The committee will be working on the parish master plan. The master plan will provide direction for the next 75+ years of the parish campus. This plan provides rationale for the current project in light of our future growth in numbers, mission endeavors, and social activities.

We received a letter from Bishop Kemme dated 14 August, 2019 granting permission to hire an architect and enter into a master planning process. The architect will provide us two essential services at this point in the process. First, they will provide a sketch of the building committee's work on our master plan. This will provide parishioners with a visual of the master plan. Second, the architect will provide us with estimated costs for each of our proposed options (church renovation, church renovation with an addition, or a new church building).

The master plan our building committee is developing, costs provided by the architect, data from our financial and growth assessment, combined with our needs assessment will provide us with the information needed to make a decision about which option is best for our community.

Prayer

Parishioners have expressed many opinions, fears, doubts, wishes, and dreams for our future. These have added much to the process and such comments continue to be welcomed. Recent feedback has made it evident that a successful project will require a renewal of our hearts and minds. This renewal occurs first on the personal level, then transferring to our families and community. To assist you in this quest for prayer and renewal I invite you to pray the following prayer daily.

Prayer for Our Building Project

O Lord, we humbly ask you to bless our building project as we seek to work for the honor and glory of you alone. Guide us and direct us always in this effort that we may be perfected as instruments of your will.

We pray that our efforts will be fitting of the sacred mysteries that will be celebrated daily upon the altar, where souls will come to worship and adore you in spirit and in truth. We pray that you will be pleased to dwell in this house of prayer and to fill it with your divine presence.

O King of kings, and Lord of lords, we pray that this church will be a visible sign to a fallen world of your presence among us; a place where souls will come to behold the Lamb of God. May countless souls find a haven from the turmoil of the world. May hungry souls come to be fed the Bread of Life. May weary and burdened souls come to find rest. May contrite and penitent souls come to receive your great mercy.

Relying solely on your loving Providence, we seek only to produce a church according to your will, and we beg of you the grace and continual assistance so that it may be thus accomplished. May our patron, St. John the Evangelist, intercede for us, strengthen us, and protect us in this effort. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.