

Building Project Update 6/30/2019

Clonmelians,

I would like to take this opportunity to share some thoughts, respond to comments, and to share inspirations of others as we come together to address needs and envision our dreams for our parish (not just the church building). Over the coming months I hope to be able to utilize our bulletin as a format for communicating information about the build-ing project. It is my desire to always keep you informed and to include you in every step of the process.

How will decisions be made?

First, we should be clear that there will not be unilateral decisions (the pastor dictating decisions) nor will decisions be made in a strict democratic way (by general vote). Both are problematic. Unilateral decisions are too reliant upon one person's perspective and democratic decisions are prone to decisions originating from a lack of information or understanding and are reactionary to fear. Decisions will be made by working toward consensus. This will involve listening to one another, evaluating data, assessing the commitment level of parishioners, and determining the best direction for moving forward. When working toward consensus each member of the committee (and every parishioner) will find they are challenged to acquiesce to the desires of others when the majority are moving in a different direction from themselves.

Why dream BIG?

What a horrible choice of words I chose for the town hall meetings!!! When I asked you to dream big many interpreted that to mean that I wanted to build a big church building. (I'm a little nutty but not completely crazy). Nothing could be farther from my mind. We have no need of building a large church (seating 800+ people). Dreaming big was meant to empower you to dream about what you would like to have as part of our ministry for your families. For example, several people asked for a separate Adoration chapel, others want to see a dedicated space for youth activities. Seating capacity of our church should be addressed but going from a seating capacity of 220 to 800+ would not be feasible or reasonable.

Honoring our forefathers.

It is my desire to always show respect and honor for those who came before us, making sacrifices to provide for what we enjoy today. Choosing to renovate, add on, or build a new church building is not meant to disrespect or hurt anyone. Rather, it is a compliment to those who gave so much of themselves; moving the current building to our campus, adding brick, and making improvements over the past 70+ years. You are the reason we are able to take a next step toward the future. Today we stand on your shoulders: your commitment to our faith, your commitment to our community, and your commitment to family life and values. I am most grateful to each of you who gave those gifts. It is in your honor that we strive to build upon your sacrifices. We will never dismantle your gift, but instead build upon it.

Fr. Joe