

## Pastor's Perspective: Moving Forward in Faith, Hope, and Charity

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

My bulletin article of March 8 provided an update on the professional Planning Study that was conducted by Guidance in Giving during the month of January. I also invited you to join me in prayer as I consulted with our parish's principal advisory boards (Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and All Saints School Board), which I did during March and April.

Reviewing the results of the Planning Study conducted by Guidance in Giving, I took note of YOUR opinions, insights, concerns and suggestions, including these significant highlights:

- we are blessed to have a spiritually strong and incredibly active parish that serves our community through many ministries and services for all ages, especially our Catholic school
- our school does an incredible job of educating and forming new generations of Catholics; however, you also noted that we need to build up resources that will
  - honor the sacrifices made by past generations by incorporating that legacy into any plans and projects for the future
  - strengthen programs already offered by the school, including extracurricular and athletic activities
  - increase the amount of financial aid available to families who desire a Catholic education for their children, and
  - continue to recruit and retain dedicated, faith-filled teachers by providing them with a more just and competitive wage
- our parish needs to increase our ministries and outreach to our elderly parishioners who are often alone and isolated, but desire regular contact with our community of faith
- any plan or project must consider other building projects within the larger community, current economic conditions, and the capacity of our community to undertake such a venture

It came as no surprise that the feedback was not unanimous. As noted in my article, your input revealed “competing priorities, contradictory views/opinions, and challenging observations.” At the same time, you clearly expressed your love, commitment, and support for our parish and its Catholic school, both now

and as we move forward in faith, hope, and charity.

Therefore, after prayerfully weighing both the content of the Planning Study and the discussions/recommendations held by the various advisory councils, I have decided to move forward with the following proposal:

- finalize professional architectural-engineering plans for the construction of a competition-grade soccer field that also incorporates a practice area for track-and-field events and a concession stand
- promote the already existing All Saints Catholic School Endowment Fund to increase the availability of funds that provide financial aid and improve teacher salaries
- work with Guidance in Giving to formulate and implement a fundraising campaign for the exclusive use of (1) paying for the cost of the entire construction project and (2) increasing the school's endowment fund, without borrowing money or impacting negatively the regular operating budget of either our parish or school, and
- reassess the ministries and services currently provided to our elderly parishioners in hopes of improving/expanding our pastoral response to their expressed sacramental, spiritual, and social needs

During the next few months, parish and school leadership will work with the professionals whom we have engaged to help us bring these plans to fruition, especially if we hope to break ground in the spring of 2027. We will do so in a way that will foster our spirit of stewardship and sacrifice, while being responsible with and respectful of our available resources.

Please note that the report expressed strong support for at least two other significant projects which should be undertaken at a future date: (1) the hope of a multi-purpose building (a combined gymnasium and performing arts complex with the capacity to host large parish gatherings) and (2) the need to address the continually deteriorating condition of the main parish rectory (which continues to sink into the ground and be a financial burden to the parish).

Even with these challenges before us, I am always confident that our Eucharist Lord, Who is alive and active in our parish and school community, will continue to shepherd us through these exciting and forward-looking endeavors.

*Peace and blessings / Msgr. Andrew Dubois*

