



On Sunday, January 24, nearly 60 Blessed Trinity parishioners gathered with architect Carl Posewitz to unveil the first stage of the “imagination”, in our MaintainRenewImagine parish process.

Since September 17, the Strategic Planning Committee has been meeting monthly to prepare for Sunday’s gathering. During the preparation meetings, the committee reflected on the Site Visit Report provided by consultant Ken Griesemer in Fall, 2015 and available here. On January 14, the Steering Committee and members of the Pastoral and Finance Councils met with Carl for the first time, again reflecting with him

on details of the Site Visit Report. At that meeting, conversation focused primarily around the entry to our present church building. Primarily, these were the concerns discussed:

1. The primary entrance to the Church is not clear;
2. Parking does not relate to the primary entrance;
3. The gathering area (Narthex) is too small;
4. Not everybody enters the church through the Narthex, which separates the community;
5. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel is not apparent to all.

Fr. Frank McCormick, pastor when the John XXIII parish plant was built, was able to reflect on many of the reasons that the present building was sited the way it is now, along with many of the other challenges of the building project. During the evening, he suggested that a possibility for re-orienting the parking might be to eliminate the “tree island” that now blocks the whole front entrance and makes the access more confusing than it originally was. He also mentioned the wish of the city at the time to orient the front entrance to 13th Street, presuming that 13th St. would eventually cut through to Reserves St. Obviously that “city plan” never materialized.

As the meeting closed, Carl stated that his usual focus in beginning such projects is to begin with the site location and orientation. Since the Steering Committee’s conversation naturally led to that focus, some of his preliminary work was easily accomplished.

In the intervening 10 days between the Jan. 14 meeting and the Jan. 24 parish meeting, Carl was able to create a possible beginning plan. In a way, it was a “this is what I created from what I heard you say.” **(The images presented are available on the parish website, blessedtrinitymissoula.org Click on the MaintainRenewImagine link).** From here, working with the Steering Committee again, the next phase of the “Imagine” will evolve, beginning first with a proposed relocation of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and, perhaps, other areas of the worship space interior.

No final decisions have yet been made; final decisions will be made after an entire **process** of imagining together is finished and a final plan is presented.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!