



Strategic Planning Team Meeting #8

May 23, 2016 MINUTES

Present: Caroline Pickolick, David Neu, Sr. Mary Jo Quinn, Pat Wegner, Doug Glevanik, Marge Nordin, Betty Chrestenson, Jim McDonald, Dale Barnum, Fr. Ed Hislop, Joe Mussulman, Daniel Hampson, Joe Licitra, Rita O'Neil, Deacon Ron Butler, Joan Dodge, Barb Dryden, Ruth Licitra, and Carl Posewitz, Architect.

1. Principles to be Considered: Fr. Ed spoke about the importance of symbol in the Catholic tradition. He said that the symbol becomes the reality. For example: Since the altar is a symbol for Christ, the altar becomes Christ. As such, the environment of the Church brings us to the “full, active and conscious participation” to which Vatican 2 calls us.

2. Review of Work Completed: Carl led a discussion of the areas of the Blessed Trinity building that have already been discussed:

- ◆ The drop off/pick up lane is only for dropping off and picking up. There will be no parking;
- ◆ The curbs in the drop off area will be low for easy access to the sidewalk;
- ◆ The plaza area will be 40 feet wide;
- ◆ There will be curb drops on the walkway system from the parking lot to the plaza area; and,
- ◆ The new design incorporates moving the steeple from the Southeast corner of the building to over the main entrance.

3. Worship Space/Lighting: Carl led the discussion on a **proposed concept/idea** for the Worship Space which includes:

- ◆ Creating one double door entry near the font. Each door will be 3 feet 6 inches wide creating a doorway over 7 feet wide;
- ◆ There will be an emergency exit on the south side of the Worship Space;
- ◆ The altar is centered in the room with the assembly chairs gathered around in a circular configuration, i.e., “church in the round”;
- ◆ The aisles will form a cross: The altar will be at the center, with the Blessed Sacrament Chapel/Font and the Marian Shrine at opposite ends of one aisle and the Presider’s chair and ambo at the ends of the other aisle.
- ◆ A ‘cloud’ drop ceiling feature that would incorporate lighting and sound systems. This would eliminate the strong sense of directionality created by the overhead wooden beams.

Challenges to this preliminary concept/design:

- ◆ Where is the Music Ministry?
- ◆ There is no clear and direct access from the font to the altar when additional chairs are placed in front of the font.
- ◆ The overhead beams focus attention to the southeast corner (where the altar is currently)

Joe asked all of those present to comment on the plan. **Most initially liked the concept overall with the following concerns/ideas/issues:**

- ◆ Too much of a change-may be “too much” for some; there must be another way to de-emphasize the beams;
- ◆ Where are the Deacon and altar server seats?

- ◆ A skylight over the altar would bring additional natural light and add focus to the altar;
- ◆ At the Rosary, having the wall to the Choir's back worked well. Perhaps that feature can be worked into the Music space;
- ◆ The 'cloud' solves the focus problem created by the beams;
- ◆ Circular design symbolic of the Holy Spirit flowing out of the Church into the community;
- ◆ If a skylight were added over the altar, it might leak;
- ◆ Many voiced concerns about the cost;
- ◆ We could do the project in phases;
- ◆ Looks contemporary, the design is welcoming;
- ◆ Many liked the location and inclusiveness of the Marian Shrine;
- ◆ The altar would be on a 6 inch high platform;
- ◆ Altar platform needs to be accessible;
- ◆ One door entrance brings all past the font to bless themselves. This brings to mind that they have entered a Catholic Worship Space.
- ◆ The design makes the altar accessible: "You can almost touch it"
- ◆ Further reflection and consideration is necessary. Other design concepts need to be explored. Important to note that this is only a "first step" at conceptualizing possibilities for the current worship space. Other ideas should be considered, reviewed and discussed.

Carl proposed that it was time to find a general contractor. The contractor would be able to generate a cost for the project. Carl said that it would be easier to find a contractor up front than to put the project out to bid. Carl also mentioned that it might be easier for fundraising purposes to complete the project in phases rather than all at once.

4. Pipe Organ: Sr. Mary Jo announced the possibility of a pipe organ that Carroll College may be parting with as a part of their Chapel renovation project. Should it be available, the cost to Blessed Trinity would be for disassembly and reassembly or about \$3,000 to \$6,000. The main maintenance cost of the organ would be annual tuning. Sr. Mary Jo said that the addition of a pipe organ would increase our musical diversity. If Blessed Trinity were to buy a refurbished pipe organ it would cost around \$40,000. Fr. Ed asked the team if they would be willing to accept the gift if it were offered. **The team agreed that we would be willing to accept the gift of a pipe organ from Carroll College.**

5. Ongoing Liturgical Formation: Fr. Ed reminded the committee that we cannot become weighed down at this point, with concerns (which are likely to be heard) such as: *"We can't afford this; We can't raise the money; We can't complete the project," etc., etc.* Instead we must move forward. The first step is to get an estimate of the anticipated cost of the entire project. This will give us a reality check. We may need to be selective of the parts that need to be done and in what order. This isn't about the present, but about the future. We need to challenge ourselves to be inviting not only by our parishioners, but also in our worship environment. We need to grow. We want to be a vital part of the next Diocesan Plan.

We need to plan the next Whole Parish meeting with Carl. This meeting will not be held on a Sunday after Mass. In the meantime, liturgical catechesis needs to be done encouraging members of the parish to look at the various aspects of the worship environment. This will be a primary agenda item at our next meeting. At that meeting we will also reflect on and discuss further the preliminary design concept presented at this meeting.

The proposed date of the next meeting of the MRI/Strategic Planning Team will be **Wednesday, June 8, 2016.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Licitra

May 29, 2016