



Whole Parish Meeting #3 September 25, 2016

Present: Over 50 parishioners.

Strategic Planning Team Members: Caroline Pickolick, Sr. Mary Jo Quinn, Pat Wegner, Doug Glevanik, Marge Nordin, Betty Chrestenson, Jim McDonald, Fr. Ed Hislop, Joe

Mussulman, Daniel Hampson, Joe Licitra, Deacon Ron Butler, Joan Dodge, Barb Dryden, and Ruth Licitra.

Presenter: Carl Posewitz, Architect.

1. Betty opened the gathering with a discussion of the importance of imagining, welcoming, and doing Liturgy well.

2. Joe discussed where the process has been:

a. The Front Entrance: The entrance to the main gathering space is imagined to be reconfigured so that the entrance faces Eaton Street. Joe reminded parishioners that the original plan was for the front entrance would face 13th Street. This street was never built. Reconfiguring the front entrance would make traffic flow patterns more obvious. The parking lot would be realigned to see the flow pattern. There would be a new drop off lane for people with mobility issues. There would be a plaza in front of the entrance for gathering space during processions.

b. The Gathering Space: Fr. Ed's office and the Blessed Sacrament Chapel would be moved to increase the size of the Gathering Space.

c. Flooring, Windows, etc: As of this time, there has been no discussion of flooring, windows, etc.

3. Sr. Mary Jo introduced Carl Posewitz who discussed proposed changes to the Worship Space:

a. Reconfigure Worship Space: Reconfigure seating in the worship space so that the chairs surround the Altar. The aisles form a Cross whose endpoints are focal points: Baptismal Font, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, and Marian Shrine.

b. Ceiling: A possibility that could de-emphasize the ceiling trusses would be to put in a false ceiling. This would also reinforce the floor design. The height of the new ceiling would be below the level of the trusses. The trusses would still be present and could be seen above the dropped ceiling.

4. Small Group Discussion: Sr. Mary Jo and Betty facilitated small group discussion on likes and dislikes of the proposed plan. Some of the concerns raised:

- ◆ Will the presider have his back to the congregation when at the Altar?
- ◆ Is there a way to slant the floor so that people can see over other people's heads?
- ◆ Can we give the seating plan a try?

- ◆ Could the walls of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel be curved to soften it?
- ◆ We need to remember our purpose: to serve God and His people;
- ◆ We need to increase ease of accessibility;
- ◆ Worship Space: The importance of entering a modern welcoming. A church in the round. Welcoming make continue to be more welcoming to future generations.
- ◆ Entrance welcoming and inviting;
- ◆ Drop off accessible to the Church;
- ◆ Need the drop off to be triangular not rectangular;
- ◆ Lay out makes it difficult to enter or leave during Mass discretely (i.e. with a crying baby, etc.).
- ◆ The drop ceiling messes with the acoustics of the pipe organ.
- ◆ We don't like the removal of the trees.
- ◆ The drop ceiling lessens the focus on the beams.

Fr. Ed said that we would try out the new configuration in November for three to four weeks. After which we would reflect on the change. There would be a communication with parishioners beforehand regarding the change.

Each group was asked to turn in their notes and a statement of their two most relevant reflections.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Licitra
November 10, 2016