



# Whole Parish Meeting January 28, 2018

Notes

There were 67 parishioners present at the meeting.

1. **Welcome:** Fr. Ed welcomed the parishioners to the meeting.
2. **Remembering Our Journey:** Sr. Mary Jo gave a short presentation of the steps we have taken to get to this point:
  - 2014 Ken Griesmer report to the Parish;
  - February 2016: First Whole Parish Meeting;
  - September 2016: First Proposal—Parish in the Round;
  - November 2016: Tried out First Proposal
  - January 2017: Whole Parish Meeting about the proposal, sent parish comments back to the architect for revision;
  - March 2017: Revised Plan presented to the parish; the revised plan was approved with concerns voiced over the cost of the project.
3. **Finances:** Fr. Ed reported that the expenses thus far are \$150,100. We've spent this money without any capital campaign. We still have savings. But, effective today, we will not spend any more money from savings on this project. Note: we have paid \$1691 toward a lighting plan which will be completed once we have decided on a direction.
  - Carl Posewitz, the architect, asked Shane Kesteke, contractor, to prepare an estimate for this project;
  - This project will cost \$877,815 with an additional 20% contingency bringing the total to \$1,053,315. This figure does not include art, furnishings, chairs, an image of Mary, Tabernacle, etc.
  - The 15% contingency noted in the estimate is an allowance for changes that might need to be made during the construction phase.
  - The 20% contingency is an adjustment for inflation because we won't be starting this project immediately.
4. **Table Discussion and Reports:**
  - How will this affect other tithing? For example: the Annual Catholic Appeal.
  - How are we doing now to meet our budget needs:
  - Do we have enough money? Why can't we use savings?
  - Why can't we use volunteers to do some of the work? (Answer: Diocesan Policy)
  - Where is the kitchen in all of this? (Answer: The kitchen is not a part of this.)
  - Do we want to spend a substantial amount of money to renovate when we have empty seats? (Answer: We need to dream: hopefully, this will bring people in.)
  - Can we, as a small parish, afford this? But, look at how much has already been accomplished with what has been spent.
  - Where is the money coming from? (Answer: A capital campaign.)
  - How can people on a limited income afford this? Keep the plan simple and the cost down.
5. **To Reach the Goal:** Fr. Ed spoke with John Barnes, Development Services Director about raising the money in a capital campaign. We have 175 households registered in the Parish. Of these,

78% donate in some fashion. The diocese, in the past, would loan a parish money for a project. Later, the parish would pay the loan back. This is no longer the case. Today, a parish would need to borrow money from the bank.

**6. Table Discussion and Report #2:**

- With our aging population on fixed incomes, even \$2000 is too much;
- The reality is some things need to be done. We can't do things now, then redo them later. These upgrades need to be done, otherwise, we will die. It's our turn for a capital campaign.
- I can find places where I can give more. Sometimes, you have to have faith. We're not supposed to fear: fear to do or fear not to do.
- The kitchen should be a priority. It could be a source of income.
- How much money will it take to begin? The longer we wait the more it will cost.
- The expenses will keep rising. I could contribute more if I gave up some things. We could do a survey of what kind of commitment people would make. (Fr. Ed: we need to maintain our regular commitments.)
- Consider giving. We've done a lot of planning and dreaming to get this far. Can we continue to give to others (NRATI, etc.) But, we need a functional building. And, we need more parishioners. Should we evangelize first? People are leaving the parish. Could we see an estimate for only the projects that are absolutely necessary?
- What about grants? (Answer: It's hard to find grants for a project such as ours.)
- People are not going to church. We need to ask why and invite them.
- Can I afford a car payment? Many people choose to purchase a car while on a fixed income. The monthly payment is similar to a car payment.
- The building and the people are important. As you go through life, you find you need to pay.
- Pledges would be good, but in emergencies, family comes first.
- We need to have energy for the future as prices go up.
- Politicians are making all kinds of changes, so who knows what the future will bring?
- We can do this—it is something we can budget for.
- Save some for ourselves
- The parish is the mouthpiece for what we are committed to

**7. Final Comments:** Fr. Ed spoke about evangelization. Parishioners are on the front line for evangelization. They are more effective than if the clergy or the office does it. Twenty percent of the growth in Missoula is Catholic. We don't see these people in our churches. Yes, people do leave. But, for every one person who leaves, another comes in. We can't let that bog us down.

Sr. Mary Jo reported that the Diocesan Pastoral Council, of which she is a member, has been complimentary about Blessed Trinity's tremendous support both in giving and in participating.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ruth Licitra  
February 1, 2018