

Strategic Planning Committee

Meeting 1: September 17, 2015



Notes from this initial meeting.

I. Prayer at the font.
II. Overview of evening; (ref/p. 23 of the “On-Site Visit Report” for what has been done): Fr. Ed: We have completed the Heating and A/C systems for the church, social center and parish offices and the Parish house. Parking lot resurfacing has been completed. We have also engaged a Lighting Design specialist to begin designed the needed lighting and electrical changes in the worship space and throughout the building. These project financing and costs have been reported to the parish through the bulletin.

III. Two questions to ponder: (Personal reflection, 10 minutes)

1. Why are you here? What makes you excited about these proposed projects?
2. If you were choosing how to start, where would that be? Why?
3. Sharing of answers to questions. (30 minutes)

Summary of Responses to question 2 (brainstorming reflections):

1. Many mentioned that **physical improvements and good art should help our parish grow**. A more beautiful space will enhance our already vibrant worship and provide a more welcoming environment, enhancing the space as a “**sacred place.**”
2. A thorough **process of engaging parishioners** on every level of needed projects. Various teams, committees, etc., will need to be “set up” and coordinated. Need to involve as many as possible.
3. **Funding** is an essential element of the proposed and anticipated projects. The completed projects have been funded from monies received from the Holy Family property sale. Remaining projects (including the needed worship space lighting) will need to be funded through a **parish capital campaign**. This will be a major and integral process in order to provide for the many needs in our parish facilities.
4. The parish needs to re-imagine the entire facility, based on the “Site Visit Report.”
5. Reflections/ Considerations for immediate discussion and resolution
 - a. Entry way: Appropriate doors > “grander” so that we know we are entering a “holy place.”
 - b. Handicapped accessibility

- c. Need to do more in Blessed Sacrament chapel—specifically a new tabernacle is needed.
 - d. FONT. The font needs to be “refurbished,” more “artful.” Present iron fence must be replaced with more appropriate and artful protection. Interior and exterior of font needs to be refurbished.
 - e. Need to replace lighting in the worship space to worship space;
 - f. Attend to worship space windows—art glass?
 - g. Proper shades for windows to cut sun glare (especially on Saturday afternoon).
 - h. Evaluate the music space. Could we consider possibility of an organ?
 - i. Cross should be grander, should be more of a focal point to draw us in.
 - j. Need a uniform approach to all liturgical furnishings.
6. A “two-pronged approach is necessary
- a. Physical plant needs, many of which are being addressed by finance council
 - b. Enhancement of “religious aura” of the worship space.
7. The **Kitchen** is currently highly inadequate. The volume of use in the kitchen, due to our very active and social parish, demonstrates its inadequacy. The Kitchen needs to be a priority in our planning process.

Adjourned at 9:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 15, 2015—Beginning Process of Developing Priorities

ADDITIONAL NOTES...

How was the “STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM” formed? At the **April 2015 FULL PARISH MEETING** to present the “Site Visit Report” those in attendance were invited to express their interest to serve on this “Strategic Planning Team.” Those who responded were subsequently invited to participate.

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THIS STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM?

David Neu, Marilyn Rodriguez, Rita O’Neill, Betty Chrestenson, Ruth Licitra, Joe Licitra, Joe Mussulman, Joan Dodge, Marge Nordin, Dale Barnum, Jim McDonald, Doug Glevanik, Pat Wegner, S. Mary Jo Quinn, Fr. Hislop

For more information about Blessed Trinity **MaintainRenewImagine** go to the parish website: Blessedtrinitymissoula.org and click on the **MaintainRenewImagine** link.

