



## REPORT ON THE MARCH 24, 2019 FULL PARISH MEETING

This report was prepared by selected members of the Strategic Planning Team and was reviewed and accepted by the Full Strategic Planning Team (with one abstention) and the Pastoral Council.

**T**HANK YOU to all who took the time to participate in the Whole Parish Meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 regarding the proposed renovations to our parish building. The turnout was good (sixty parishioners participated), resulting in abundant conversation and thoughtful questions. The meeting consisted of a planned agenda that first gave a brief overview of past information and then moved to an update of what had happened since the last meeting (the PowerPoint presentation provided at the gathering is available on the parish website). We discussed the project's costs and financing, gave parishioners information on how they can get involved going forward, and shared what comes next. The major areas of discussion were the needs of the worship space, the potential sale of a portion of the west side of the church property, the church exterior and, finally, the capital campaign.

**The worship area** is in desperate need of many things but the foremost are **paint, lighting** that works, and **sound** that provides accessible options for those who need the assistance. The walls of the nave have not been painted in quite a while and show wear and soil. Working with the architect, we will choose colors for the walls and ceiling to give an updated look. The existing lighting is quickly deteriorating and causing visibility problems. This limits people's experience of the Mass and needs



immediate attention. The proposed lighting will also have the capability for dimming and highlighting similar to the existing system but will be technologically easier to use without adding much to the overall cost. The contract for the lighting is in the process of preparation for bidding. The sound system has never been able to accommodate congregants with hearing issues. As the wiring cracks and speakers begin to wear out, we need to make the system more accessible. Most people at the meeting and their comments regarding this issue were very positive and in favor of proceeding as soon as the situation allows.

**The Sacristy**, in need of repair and renovation, is also a part of Phase One.

The Finance Council has determined that the work on this project will be paid for from savings and repaid once the Capital Campaign has begun because the situation is so dire (*note further information regarding financing under the Update section of this report*\*). Many people felt **accessibility issues** such as bathrooms and entrance doors were a very high priority.

Also on the short list of needs is **the font** since it has a major leak that needs to be addressed before it does serious damage to the structure of the church itself. (*Repair of plumbing problems with the current font would require breaking through the concrete floor, likely in several places until the leak is found. This would be of significant expense. It has therefore been suggested that we remove the current font and design and construct a new font in a new location, in the area just below the current placement of the Icon of the Blessed Trinity.*)



Participants at the meeting heard about **possibly selling part of the west side of the church property**. Bishop Thomas encouraged Blessed Trinity to consider this possibility. There is currently one party interested in purchasing it, and the sale would have to be handled by the Diocese for the benefit of Blessed Trinity. In order to sell it, the Diocese requires a bid of market appraisal or higher. It will have to meet the requirements of the City of Missoula for its currently stated purpose, senior living. The funds would be used to help with the renovation project. There were many questions and comments around this topic including the loss or moving of the garden and labyrinth, less “open space,” additional traffic, and parking. However, there were also people excited for the currently proposed senior living adjacent to the church, a playground for the kids, maintaining grassy areas for events, and new walking paths. The overall accord of the participants was in favor of the sale while minimizing the impact on our site itself.



While the sale of the property would allow the project to begin in earnest, there would still be a **Capital Campaign** to go along with it. The sale would lighten the amount needed to be raised from the Campaign for the project but not eliminate it. The sale of the property would permit the renovations to happen much faster than waiting for the funds to trickle in from the Capital Campaign and enable us to take advantage of current pricing rather than endanger the renovations due to increasing costs over time.

We are not able to *borrow money directly from the Diocese due to the current inability of the diocese to provide that kind of financial assistance.* \*Note the **UPDATE** below.

There were many questions and comments regarding funding. Participants concerns included the ability of parishioners to commit to increased donations as well as their dedication to the project. In the end, the vast majority of comments at the meeting stated that we need to get going on this project sooner rather than later.

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## *Update* since the March 24<sup>th</sup> Full Parish Gathering:

- The Strategic Planning Team, Pastoral Council and Finance Council have determined for Blessed Trinity to contract with WGM group for “Boundary line relocation and re-zoning of parish property,” to prepare for the possible sale of the property.
- \*In order for us to fund Phase One of the project (worship space lighting, painting; sacristy renovation, etc.) the Diocese of Helena has offered to secure a loan of \$100,000 from other parishes in the diocese at the rate of 4%. The Diocesan Financial Office believes that this is a better approach, rather than funding the project totally through parish savings. Blessed Trinity consultative groups concur. The monthly payments would be made from the Blessed Trinity savings account and through the planned Capital Campaign. Parish Finance Council, Strategic Planning Team and Parish Finance Council has approved this approach.
- Strategic Planning Team, the Pastoral Council and Finance Council have determined to invite Liturgical Design Consultant Mr. Ken Griesemer to make a return visit this summer in order to assist us in various elements of the worship space project. He will be here on July 9-11, 2019 (his initial “site visit report in 2014 is available on the parish website.) Mr. Griesemer will assist us as we begin to work on a design for an image of Mary in the worship space; and liturgical furnishings (cross, altar, ambo, etc.).
- Consultative groups have all determined that we begin the process of designing and implementing a Capital Campaign this summer. Date of implementation to be determined.

Bulletin INSERT + Feast of the Holy Trinity June 16, 2019



Website: [blessedtrinitymissoula.org](http://blessedtrinitymissoula.org)