

March 14&15, 2009

Hello, I'm Rich Steinacher, a member of the Facilities Project Communication Team, here on behalf of the Parish Council to encourage your active participation in one of two Parish Facilities Forums, either next Sunday, March 22, from 1-2:30 p.m., or Tuesday, March 24, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. The purpose of these two forums is to give you all the opportunity to come together in community, learn about the three critical studies that will underlie your choices about facilities projects, and make some preliminary decisions about what the priorities for added spaces should be.

The 90-minute program will begin with 10 minutes to introduce the program and address some questions that many of you have been asking:

- Why a facilities project now?
- How are we going to pay?
- How will the final decision be made and by whom?
- How will what we do in this Forum inform that decision?

After these questions are answered, Forum participants will move into a 45-minute educational update in three parts:

- 1) A review of the fruits of the 2007 Strategic Plan—our vision, mission, and goal statements—and the many programs that the parish decided were needed to give life to those statements;
- 2) A review of the deteriorating facilities, as well as the design constraints of these facilities, but one that goes beyond the On-line Tour pictures and focuses on the impacts of this physical plant on current and desired Parish programs; and
- 3) A review of the July 2008 Feasibility and Conceptual Design Study recommendations, including pictures and site drawings of one concept, developed for St. Catherine's by the architectural consultants, which includes information that our consultants based these designs on what we said were our program requirements.

Informed by the reviews above, Forum participants will engage in the culminating activity of the program, scheduled for 25 minutes, namely our first formal effort at **Prioritizing Space Needs**. Our problem is this: Developing new facilities presents the challenge of choosing among programmatic needs for space and then finding project funds necessary to build them. Inevitably, the space "wants" exceed the funds available. Therefore, parishioners must select the spaces to build, within the budget constraints, in order to maximize the benefits received from the facilities. At the Forum, you will be expressing your viewpoint on the importance of these spaces to you as a parishioner.

At a point in the future, we will ask your help in matching the desired spaces you decide upon at these Forums to the results of the fundraising feasibility study, due out in late May.

The future of St. Catherine of Siena Parish is bound up in our commitment to the programmatic intentions of our church, and the spaces we provide to make those programs a reality. Therefore, in the spirit of our mission, visions, and goals, from which all our programs flow, please plan to attend one of the forums next week.