



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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Dear Fellow Disciples,

After an almost 7 month hiatus due to scheduling conflicts and Covid-19, the Strategic Planning Team and I finally met with the diocesan liturgy office and the bishop's representative in order to get approval regarding proceeding with next steps on the church renovation.

I am happy to inform you that we met on July 9th and have received authorization to proceed. We are now planning to meet with the engineering firm (Kibbe and Associates) and the liturgical consultant (Lou DiCocco) on July 23.

What follows is a summary of the meeting with the liturgy office, as written by Dan Smith. Please let me know if you have any questions.

In Christ,

Fr. J. Marcel Portelli

Fr. Portelli, Rob Neering, Dan Smith, Tim Shea, Tom Winarski, Dave Cooper, Jill Witkowski, Tom Fruchey and Dave Poxon (via cell phone) attended a meeting with Fr. Pat O'Connor, Fr. James Wm. Bessert and Stephanie Flynn from the diocese today.

* Fr. Portelli provided a brief history of the project. In essence, we have been in a "pause mode" for roughly 6 months.

* As of June 30, 2020, \$881,145 has been pledged with \$675,490 received, \$25,346 in interest earned for a total of \$700,836 on hand. Pledges have continued to come in spite of the pandemic - very good news.

* Tim Muter's position has not been replaced at the diocese. Stephanie is available to assist as much as possible and recommends that a project manager from the parish be assigned to interact with the diocese. The diocese recommends that Greg Bator (engineer at Kibbe) be contacted as he is a member of the diocese building commission and can assist.

The diocese has approved the following:

#1 - we have approval to move forward and have Kibbe develop construction documents.

#2 - construction documents are then to be presented to the building commission for final review and approval. Stephanie indicates this process can be "fast tracked" once she receives the documents.

#3 - after building commission approval, the project can be sent out for bids.

* The only pending issue from the diocese was in regards to the confessional. Following the meeting, Fr. Portelli will show diocese members the current confessional and any proposed changes being made.

* There was also discussion regarding the previous request (April 2020) to have Kibbe develop two sets of construction plans, one for the smaller narthex, the second for a larger narthex. It was agreed that we should have Kibbe develop plans for only the smaller narthex. If additional monies are available, decisions will need to be made if they should be used for a larger narthex or interior upgrades.

* If additional funds were needed for the project, there was brief discussion about using parish savings. Dave Cooper indicated the Finance Council did not support this option. No final decision was made at the meeting.

No future meeting was scheduled, however Fr. Portelli mentioned that Lou DiCocco was scheduled to visit later this month.