

Strategic Planning – Old Rectory April 2018

What follows is a brief summary of information gathered from and shared with Sacred Heart parishioners throughout the strategic planning process relating to the old rectory. The strategic planning process, including facility issues has been discussed at virtually every Pastoral and Finance Council meetings since 2015. These meetings were open to all parishioners with advance notices posted in the bulletin. Additionally, much of the same information had also been shared on the parish website.

Wanted Parishioner Input (Bulletin – March 2015): The Pastoral and Finance Councils are in the information gathering phase of developing a strategic plan for Sacred Heart Parish. The first opportunity for parishioner input will be in the next couple weeks. Each registered household will be sent either a “Community” or “Building and Grounds” survey. Copies of both surveys will be available at the church entrances should a parishioner want to respond to the survey they did not initially receive. Once information from the surveys is compiled, a series of “town hall” style meetings will be held to provide updates and gain additional parishioner input over the next few months. Your comments are vital as this will be your initial opportunity to help shape future programs, ministries and facilities at Sacred Heart. Completed surveys can be dropped in the collection basket or at the parish office by **April 19**.

Community and Facilities Cover Letter (April 2015): Surveys seeking parishioner input were mailed to each registered household. Copies were also available in the back of the church. The cover letter advised parishioners that this was their initial opportunity to help shape future programs ministries and facilities at Sacred Heart. The letter indicated that a number of “town hall” style meetings to provide updates and gain additional input would be scheduled.

Parish Survey (Bulletin – April 2015): The “Community and Building and Grounds” surveys were mailed this past week. Your input is very important as this will be your opportunity to help shape future programs, ministries and facilities at Sacred Heart. Completed surveys can be dropped in the collection basket or at the parish office by May 3rd. If you did not receive a survey, there are some located at the church entrances. Once information from the surveys is compiled, a series of “town hall” style meetings will be held to provide updates and gain additional parishioner input over the next few months.

Survey (Bulletin – May 2015): Results of the survey are being compiled. Once all the information has been completed, a series of “town hall” meetings will be scheduled. A big thank you to those who took the time to complete the survey. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Strategic Planning Update (Bulletin – May 2015): Parishioner response to the initial phase of our Strategic Planning process has been outstanding with over 100 Facilities and Community Surveys completed and returned. The results will be available shortly.

The next step in our process will be a series of “town hall” meetings. Additional information addressing comments and issues noted in the surveys will be periodically included in the bulletin and on the website. Our intent is to have an open and transparent to ensure parishioners have access to all available information prior to the meetings. Town hall meetings have been scheduled on dates and times to allow maximum parishioner participation. Meetings will cover the same information, it is not necessary to attend all three meetings listed below:

10:30 pm on Sunday, July 12, 2015
7:00 pm on Wednesday, July 15, 2015
6:30 pm on Saturday, July 25, 2015

Finally, parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Building and Grounds Committee meetings listed in the bulletin.

Strategic Planning Updated (Bulletin – June 2015): The Strategic Planning Committee would like to start including little bits of information in the weekly bulletin leading up to the Town Hall meetings in July.

Did you Know (Bulletin – June 2015): Construction of the Parish Center (Sacred Heart School) began in 1966. The school opened in the fall of 1967 with four Bernadine Sisters, one lay teacher and 165 students. In 2010, Bishop Joseph Cistone accepted a recommendation from the Pastoral Council to close Sacred Heart School. Approval following increased tuition and parish costs and an enrollment report that showed only nine students for the 2010-2011 academic school year. After the school was closed, parish offices were moved from the rectory into the building. In addition to containing staff offices, the Parish Center has a library and is used for religious education for children and adults, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), meetings and similar functions.

Did You Know (Bulletin - June 2015): The old rectory was built in 1911. The two story brick-veneered building has not been used as a residence since 2005. Parish staff offices had been located in the old rectory until they moved to the Parish Center in 2010 after Sacred Heart School closed. Until attendance exceeded available space, “first Friday lunches” were held in the old rectory. For the past several years, usage of the building has been limited to choir practice before mass and counting weekend collections.

Did You Know (Bulletin – June 2015 and twice in July 2015): The results of the Community and Facilities Surveys have been posted on the Sacred Heart Parish website and can be viewed via link: <http://www.gladwinsacredheart.org/>. These documents contain numerical rankings and parishioner comments for each question. For parishioners who do not have access to the internet, printed copies are available for review in the Parish Center.

A limited number of printed copies without parishioner comments will be available at the church entrances and Parish Center.

Strategic Planning informational meetings to develop plans for the future have been scheduled in the Activity Center as follows:

- Sunday, July 12 @ 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 15 @ 7 pm.
- Saturday, July 25 @ 6:30 pm.

It is not necessary to attend all informational meetings as they are designed to cover the same information.

Did You Know (Bulletin – June 2015): The convent was built in 1952 and functioned as the living quarters for the four Bernadine Sisters teaching at the school. The main floor has a living room, sitting room, chapel and kitchen, while upstairs there are five small bedrooms and a bathroom. The convent has not been used as a residence since 2002, after which it was used for a few years as a library and by the youth group. The building has been vacant since 2010. There was an underground tunnel connecting the convent and old school. In the early 80's it was filled in.

Did You Know (Bulletin – July 2015): Constructed in 1982, the Activity Center functioned as the cafeteria and gymnasium for Sacred Heart School. The building held the Sacred Heart Mission until the Mission moved to its new location in 2010. The Activity Center contains two kitchens (one is used for quilting), dining area, gym, two racquetball courts, bathrooms, locker rooms and a room for the youth group. A significant portion of the funds raised to fund the Activity Center were generated from racquetball court fees. Currently the Activity Center is used by the youth group, and for parish functions including the Christmas Bazaar, garage sale, meetings, First Friday lunches, funeral dinners and coffee after Mass.

Town Hall Meetings (July 2015): In addition to building and grounds estimates for Sacred Heart facilities, overall scores and rankings for each of the seven Facility Survey questions were shared with attendees at the three (3) town hall meetings. All parishioner questions, comments and concerns were recorded and included in the strategic plan.

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting (Bulletin – August 2015): The next Strategic Planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4th at 4:00 pm at the Parish Center. Please note this is open to all parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish.

Building and Grounds Meeting Minutes (August 4, 2015): “Discussion on plans that Dan Provost brought to the meeting on what Sacred Heart Parish grounds could look like. It was the consensus of the board that whatever option is chosen that the rectory remains where it currently is.”

Strategic Plan Update (Bulletin – October 2015): Thanks to outstanding parishioner participation and involvement, over the past year, input regarding various aspects of parish life has been obtained from numerous sources including Organizational, Ministries, and Committee Interviews, Community and Facilities Surveys, and Informational Meetings. Based on this information, the strategic plan has been developed and includes goals and objectives for three focus areas; Community, Service, and Facilities. The strategic plan has now been submitted to the Diocese for review. Once approved, another series of Informational meetings will be scheduled to “roll out” the plan and obtain additional parishioner input regarding facilities options as we move into the future.

Correspondence to all Sacred Heart Employees (November 2015): Correspondence requesting input on the number and size of offices needed, number and size of conference rooms needed, size of record storage area required and other necessary rooms and preference to location of these rooms relative to the old rectory, activity center or new structure adjacent to the church. Meeting scheduled for January 2016.

Pastoral, Finance, Strategic Planning Joint Meeting Minutes (August 2016): “All members of the committees agreed that the plan was ready to be taken to the next phase..... Once plans are developed and can be shown to parishioners, the Capital Improvement Campaign can begin to start the fund raising phase.”

Sacred Heart Parish Did You Know (Bulletin – November 2016): On October 25th, the Consultant Selection Work Group met with four architectural firms that specialize in Catholic church facilities design. The firms were provided information regarding various options for parish campus facilities that had been developed following the Facilities Survey and informational meetings with parishioners in 2015. Each consultant was asked to develop an “action plan” with various options and recommendations to renovate and revitalize our facilities by the end of November. The work group will then select one firm to develop detail drawings that can be presented for parishioner input in early 2017.

Correspondence to Bishop Cistone (March 2017): “At this point, it is my understanding that you are seeking permission to proceed with a feasibility study to include 1) hiring a consultant firm to conduct the study and 2) hiring an architect to assemble a visual master plan of the proposal, including estimated costs. I am pleased to grant permission for this phase of the project.”

Parish Feasibility Study Beginning (Bulletin – March 2017): As everyone at Sacred Heart knows, our master site planing process has been underway and being fine-tuned for quite some time. After considerable analysis, prayer and feedback from parishioners a master site plan has emerged along with a first step of proposed implementation. It is only a preliminary sign with many details yet to be finalized. However, the design gives us a basic structure and estimated costs and this process is supported by Bishop Cistone.

The next step in the process is a feasibility study. A feasibility study welcomes everyone's opinions and thoughts regarding the proposed plans. The feasibility study goal is to assess the overall support of the parish before moving forward.

We're getting very close and you'll be hearing more about this study quite soon. Until then, continue to find quiet time this summer. It is the perfect time to open your hearts to the humanity and simplicity of Christian life, and to respond to our call as stewards of God's gifts.

Dear Fellow Disciples (Bulletin – April 2017): “In August 2016 an Architect Evaluation Committee was assembled and with the consultation of the diocese, the team began to evaluate 10 architectural firms. The group's focus is a renovation of the church building, and then other parts of the campus in a phased, multi-year approach. This may include rationalizing our current excess building capacity.

As you can read in the bulletin insert, I'm excited to announce that Bishop Cistone has now authorized our request to conduct a feasibility study for a capital development campaign. The study will take several months to complete. Its goal is to determine the scope of commitment to the campaign and the overall renovation project by the parishioners and other stakeholders. The study will realistically consider the demographics of our people.

In conjunction, Bishop has granted permission to hire an architect with whom I and other Sacred Heart leadership will work to assemble a visual master plan of our proposal and estimated costs. Many more details to come.”

Sacred Heart Campus Layout Proposal (July 2017): Cram and Ferguson Architects developed facility recommendations and costs associated with campus renovations totaling \$1.4 million.

Church Feasibility Study Beginning (Bulletin - August 2017): A parish wide feasibility study is underway to obtain your feedback about the plans to address current and future needs. All registered parishioners were mailed information about the proposed first step of our plan to continue a strong Catholic presence for the future in Gladwin. Registered parishioners have been asked to either complete a survey or to personally meet with a member of The Breton Group for a confidential interview.

Feasibility Study Surveys (August 2017): Correspondence/survey sent to all registered households requesting input on phase one of our master plan (including drawings with the old rectory removed). In addition, the Breton Group will conduct “face to face” interviews with a cross section of parishioners.

Church Feasibility Study (Bulletin – August 2017): As you now, the parish-wide feasibility study is underway to get your feedback about the plans that address current and future facility needs of our parish. The entire parish should have now received information in the mail about our plans that boldly continue the Catholic mission of Sacred Heart Church. Some parishioners are being asked to complete a survey and other are being asked to personally meet with a member of The Breton Group for a confidential interview.

If you received a survey and instead prefer to share your thoughts personally with a member of The Breton Group, contact the church office so that arrangements can be made when a Breton Group staff member is here on Monday, August 14 and Tuesday, August 15. Whether you complete a survey or are interviewed, your feedback is confidential. All feedback will be condensed into a final report with no names attached to specific responses. If you have not received your mailing yet, please contact the church office, and we will remedy that.

The survey and interviews are an important step in our feasibility study analysis. Please continue to pray that the Lord's will be done at Sacred Heart Church.

Site Master Plan Surveys (Bulletin – August 2017): If you received the Site Master Plan and have not completed it please do so. Or go online to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SHGladwin>. Your opinion is very important.

You can drop them off at the parish office in the collection basket or place them in the marked green boxes at the parish's entrance. They are due back Sunday, August 29.

Feasibility Study Results (September 2017): Results of the 345 surveys distributed, 165 were returned (48% return rate) and 34 personal interviews conducted by the Breton Group were released. Recommendation to revise the plan and reduce projected costs to \$700 – 800,000.

Attention Sacred Heart Parishioners (Bulletin – November 2017): All Sacred Heart parishioners are encouraged to read the results of the campus renovation feasibility study at gladwinharrisoncatholic.com or by picking up a copy at the parish office.

Revised Proposal Diocese Correspondence (December 2017): Correspondence and proposed drawings sent to the Diocese for approval to spend \$90,000 to repair the Parish Center roof, put out for bid the old rectory with a deadline of July 1 to move the rectory to a new location, and implement a capital improvement campaign. If no takers, use up to \$50,000 to raze it. Correspondence and drawings (old rectory not included) were inserted in the bulletin.

Diocese Approval and Bulletin (January 2018): Approval from the Diocese to move forward. Bulletin announcement the weekend of January 28 indicated, “I am happy to announce that Bishop Cistone has approved Sacred Heart's revised strategic plan dated December 15th. If you haven't seen the proposal, please read it on the parish website or pick up a copy by the church entrances. (It was also recently distributed at Mass). The team has been working on this for almost five years.”