

Stepping Stones

News for Our Family

About Our Journey

Toward Our Home

Holy Family Parish

www.holyfamily.com

November 2012

Looking at the Near and Far Future

By Father Matthew Brumleve

Today, comments about two things: town hall meetings and the annual appeal.

Someday, when I don't have anything else to do, I'm going to begin writing one of my books: "St. Benedict's Wisdom for Parishes."

St. Benedict wrote a rule, a guide, for monastic communities over 1,500 years ago. The advice is still solid for today for monastic communities, and much of Benedict's wisdom can be applied in parishes, as well. Such as his advice for "summoning the brothers for counsel":

As often as anything important is to be done in the monastery (parish), the abbot (pastor) shall call the whole community together and himself explain what the business is; and after hearing the advice of the brothers (and sisters, in the parish), let him ponder it and follow what he judges the wiser course. [Rule of Benedict, Chapter 3]

So thank you for coming to a town hall meeting! We discussed our future, which is of utmost importance to us, I and others on the staff have heard your advice, and now we will enter into a period of pondering the wisest next step for us into the future.

Read about the outcome of the town hall meetings in this

issue of Stepping Stones.

Expect to hear additional information in the future. I met with Mike Shaughnessy, the architect we have been working with, on October 30 and asked for some firmer information and dollar amounts.

However we decide to keep moving into the future, we need money to do it – and our source of income is all of you.

As we move into a season focused on giving gifts, please take the time to seriously consider what your gift back to God should be for the generosity God has shown you in your life.

Yes, we are still in difficult economic times, but all of us continue to be blessed by God simply by living in this country.



Father Matthew at a town hall meeting.

It is never the amount we should be concerned about – but the fact that we **do** give. God will never be outdone in generosity!

Why an annual appeal?

Because I think our relationship with God and our relationship with the particular parish that we choose to be a part of deserves at least some thought every year.

Pause, pray, discuss, perhaps pray some more, then commit. God and your parish deserve it.



Discipleship And Mission

Annual Stewardship Appeal

By Patty Whelchel
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As a result of our last 18-month campaign, we are now on a calendar-year renewal! The annual stewardship appeal form is included in this newsletter.

First, please enter your personal data so we may verify your address, phone and email. If not current, the parish spends money when mail is returned and re-sent or we must verify information. Please contact the parish office throughout the year when these changes occur, including the birth of a child!

Pray and discern how you will share your gifts with Holy Family. The treasure section of the stewardship appeal form has two pieces. The first commitment is to the parish's annual operating budget. We have included a chart to help you figure your tithe based on your annual household income.

The second commitment opportunity is the Next Step fund. Since the parish is not beginning a new capital campaign, you may continue your contribution at

your current rate or change your amount. If you have not supported the Next Step, here's your chance. These funds will be held in reserve for future needs, such as necessary repairs to existing facilities.

The parish offers several ways to give.

You may give using your envelope at Mass or mail. You may set up automatic withdrawals from your checking, savings or credit card using the "Donate Here" button on the parish homepage. You may also make one-time gifts here. Or, stop by the parish office and complete an automatic withdrawal (ACH) form. **Have questions?** Contact business manager Marie Relic at marie@holyfamily.com or 436-9200, ext. 21.

In response to our baptismal call to nurture and share our gifts, learn which ones you will share with Holy Family's community. The reverse of the appeal form lists most parish ministries. Please mark your initials next to the min-

istry you wish to be involved in during 2013.

Having trouble matching your talents with the form? Want to do something, but don't know what? Let me help you find a way to be fulfilled, to create an attitude of gratitude. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, Patty Whelchel, stewardship and development director, at patty@holyfamily.com or 436-9200, ext. 30.

Please use the enclosed envelope to return your commitment form. You may mail to the parish or drop in the weekend's collection before December 31.

Parishioner Comments

"I feel it would be in our best interest to stay in our current location and expand, also including a multipurpose space."

"I knew when the plan was originally presented to us that it didn't have a chance of going anywhere."

"There is a reason that we bought the land to the north and that is because we were concerned that we could outgrow our existing property. That fact has never changed and is becoming more evident every day."

"I understand everyone's concerns and fears, but we knew this was going to be a long process from the very start."

"The costs to build/expand/remodel our existing facilities will not be a cheap venture either."



Patty Whelchel, director of stewardship and development, speaks to a crowd at a recent town hall meeting in the parish hall.

Answers to Town Hall Meeting Questions

What is the ratio of parishioners who contribute with and without a pledge versus those who do not give?

The following numbers are as of November 1, 2012, with 990 registered/active families in our database.

Three hundred forty-four families pledged **\$1,150,775** to the annual appeal 2011-2012 (18-month campaign). We received **\$942,843** on those pledges. We received **\$348,399** from 314 families who did not make an annual appeal pledge.

Two hundred seventy-three families pledged to the Next Step campaign a total of **\$408,411** with **\$304,400** received. We received **\$41,693** from 71 families who did not make a pledge to the Next Step campaign.

Of the 990 families, 658 are contributing to the annual parish budget and 344 are participating in the Next Step campaign.

What would the impact be if the remaining parishioners gave to Holy Family?

If those remaining 332 families gave just \$5 a week, it would add **\$86,320** toward our annual budget. If the 646 families who do not contribute to the Next Step campaign did the same, we would average **\$568,000 a year instead of \$400,000**, bringing our three-year campaign to over \$1.7 million instead of \$1.2!

What is the allocation of the \$40 million for the diocesan campaign?

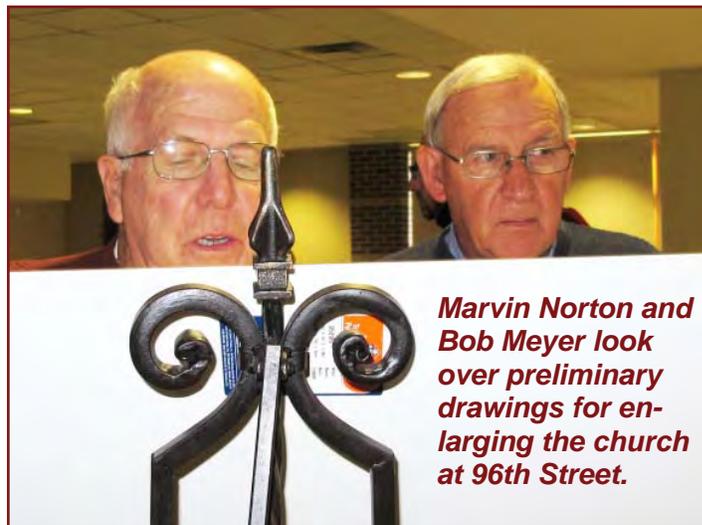
The majority of the diocesan campaign for Catholic education will support a new high school, St. Michael the Archangel, in eastern Jackson County. \$2 million will go to St. Pius X and Bishop LeBlond High Schools. \$2.5 million will be allocated for seminarians. \$10 million will go back to the parishes, if the goal is met.

How many existing Catholic high schools are there? Why do we need a new one?

The new high school will replace Archbishop O'Hara and St. Mary's high schools, older schools in declining areas. St. Pius X and Bishop LeBlond are diocesan high schools. Within our diocese, we also have these private high schools: Notre Dame de Sion, St. Teresa's Academy, Rockhurst and Cristo Rey, operated by other entities.

Can we choose a different option after we find out what wave of the diocesan campaign we are in?

The diocesan campaign shouldn't affect which option we choose. The variable is when Holy Family would begin its next capital campaign. In order to avoid the guarantee of a diocesan campaign, we cannot start a campaign within our wave of that campaign. Each wave of the diocesan



Marvin Norton and Bob Meyer look over preliminary drawings for enlarging the church at 96th Street.

campaign will last three years, the first wave beginning May 2013. If we are in that wave, we could not begin a campaign until June 2016.

At this point, nothing is set in stone. We always have to be open and willing to change. When Holy Family decided 10 years ago to purchase the land at 106th and Woodland and pursue building a new church, we had no way of predicting the downturn in our economy or problems within our diocese and universal church.

Have other diocesan campaigns been operated the same way, with parishes having simultaneous campaigns required to guarantee money to the diocese?

The diocese has had other campaigns in which parishes were required to guarantee an amount. The last was in 2000. Some parishes are just now completing that obligation.

What were the results of the other town hall meetings?

See results on back cover.

If we choose Option 3, could we rent the facility for income?

We would not be able to rent the space until a separate church was built. Occupying a larger multipurpose facility and leaving our current location would require all Masses, activities, events, etc. to be held at the new location. There would not be opportunities to rent the facility. It would eliminate the hall rental we currently offer for wedding receptions and other events, since the area would have to be set for Mass each weekend.

What is the value of the 96th Street property and building or of 106th and Woodland property?

We are told "the property is worth what someone is will-

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Questions and Answers

Continued from Page 3

ing to pay for it.” Until we have a parish consensus of how to proceed, we did not want to invest in services to find out these answers until necessary.

Will the diocese approve us staying here?

We don't know. We conducted these town hall meetings to find out what parishioners see in Holy Family's future. We need to know what the parish is willing to support, especially financially.

The diocese may have grandiose plans for us. Parish leadership may be chasing after a dream, but is it the dream that the parishioners want and will support? By getting the parish's pulse, Father Matthew can go before the bishop and tell him this is what Holy Family parishioners will support.

Can we meet our expectations and growth by staying?

After meeting with Mike Shaughnessy of SFS Architecture, we were assured the renovations and changes to our existing property will meet current needs. Our future has too many variables to predict our needs, just as things have changed over the past 10 years.

How many seats with the 96th Street expansion?

SFS Architecture's preliminary drawing increases our current worship space from about 620 to about 1,000 seats, while restoring the family room.

What if we stay here and then get “maxed out” on space?

At some point, the diocese will need to step in and say Northland growth deems we proceed with plans to build a parish between us and St. James or us and St. Therese.

Will the size of our current parish hall increase?

We have the potential of building out to the south and to the east, so the option to increase is there.

Could we put in another level of parking?

No, the existing parking was not constructed to allow for levels. Not sure what city codes are, but we're sure that our neighbors would not appreciate a two-story parking lot. In looking at the possible expansion to our existing property, sufficient spaces may still be added.

Can we fill in the lake? Is there a dam? Can we make the lake smaller?

No, yes and maybe! The lake is a protected area and serves as run-off for the neighborhood with a dam at the west end. We do not know if it's possible to make the lake smaller, because it would need to be dug more than five feet deeper. We do not know how far down we can dig before hitting bedrock. The lake will need to be dredged

Holy Family Provides Catholic Schooling at St. Charles School

Since Holy Family's founding in 1980, we have had a unique partnership with St. Charles School. Registered, active, tithing families are eligible to enroll their children.

To qualify, a family must have a commitment to life-long tithing to all parish ministries and a record of active participation in the parish. (A tithe is 10 percent of gross family income with six percent contributed to the parish.)

A minimum of a two-year tithing history is required prior to enrollment. New families must obtain a copy of their contribution record and verification of participation from their previous parish to be considered for admission.

Contact Marie Relic at 436-9200, ext. 21, for further information.

in the future, regardless.

Can we add another floor to the education wing?

Preliminary feedback from SFS Architecture shows we are able to expand to the south and east. Until we determine the parish's pulse with meeting and survey results, we did not want to put money toward design and construction issues.

With option 4 will pews with kneelers be installed?

Yes, we will have kneelers. The diocese will require that we have pews with kneelers. Specifics on design are quite a way down the road regardless of which option is chosen.

Parishioners were told that we could not expand at this property. What changed?

One roadblock was the diocesan request for a school. Current leadership began investigating all options for growth. We felt it wise to exhaust all avenues.

When looking at the current economy, meeting current needs and attempting to plan for future growth, it was in our best interest to meet with Mike Shaughnessy. At that meeting, we learned that expansion at this location is a possibility. We also have different leadership than 10 years ago. This brings new and different ideas, as well as different views.

Why are we thinking of having a school?

When the land at 106th and Woodland was purchased, the diocese instructed us to include a school in the

master plan. To the best of our knowledge, parishioners have never been asked if they want or will support a school. We are now asking that question to find out if there is sufficient backing for a school at Holy Family.

If we do not want to support a school at Holy Family, can the bishop override our decision?

Yes.

What is the cost of subsidizing a school?

This depends on the funding model chosen. Several business managers who have schools have reported that 35 to 45 percent of the operating budget goes to the school.

Is St. Charles at maximum capacity?

No, none of the Northland Catholic grade schools are at maximum capacity. In fact, most schools experienced a drop in enrollment.

Can we increase our giving to St. Charles to help?

At this time we cannot increase our giving to St. Charles without cutting services or programs elsewhere. We cur-

rently give about \$13,650 a month to St. Charles, based on 39 students from 23 families with a per pupil cost of \$4,200 a year. Last year, 15 percent of our operating expenses supported St. Charles, St. Pius and our seminarian. In June 2011 we gave St. Charles \$10,000 for roof replacement, in addition to cost per student.

The diocese is working on a plan where parishes without a school will be required to pay a percentage to support diocesan schools. Our agreement with St. Charles would end if the diocese moves forward with its plan.

Who pays for a school?

When a school is established a funding method would be chosen, such as tuition-based or tithing. Paying for a school is the parish's responsibility. Funds received from families whose children attend the school will not cover total operational costs. So, as mentioned previously, a parish would use about 35 to 45 percent of its annual operating budget to pay for the school's expenses.

Comments Regarding a School at Holy Family

"We voted to remain at 96th Street. Since there is not sufficient space at the current location, we do not support a school at this time."

"Eventually yes, but let's get our new church built first."

"In place of a school I'd rather see operations for the other end of the age scale; assisted living, nursing home and hospice center. Make money helping the aging baby boomers instead of spending money for youth education."

"My daughter goes to St. Charles and we love it. I think the current relationship is wonderful between the two churches."

"We cannot even keep the current Northland Catholic schools at capacity. Adding another school, although appealing to me personally, would not benefit our diocese or the Northland Catholic schools."

"I received a Catholic education from two different schools within the diocese. I think my education prepared me to be successful in college, in a job, and in life. However, I think that it is so time-consuming and financially draining to run a school. . . . I think that the children attending St. Charles works out well."

"Only if you could get an idea as to how many families will send their kids there. I think the church for now is the primary focus."

"The NKC School District has all the resources my children need for education. Couple this with our PSR program and the faith formation we do at home, I don't see that it would be necessary at all to have a school. . . . with St. Charles down the street, falling apart due in part to low enrollment, how could we possibly consider adding another school when between the two parishes we can barely keep the one going? There is simply not enough interest in our area to support two schools."

"Need to address affordability of school tuition levels."

". . . we have no way of paying for it. In addition we have very low interest with no guarantee that the children of Holy Family would even attend."

"Since the Catholic schools are getting smaller in the Northland – even though I truly believe in Catholic schools - until there is a growing need I say support the schools that are already there."

". . . while I value Catholic education, if we cannot even fill our current schools, who will we hurt by opening another? Why St. Andrews opened a school so close to St. Gabe's and St. Charles I will never understand."

"I think it makes better sense to support the Catholic schools already established in our community – most notably, St. Charles."

Polling Results: *TOWN HALL MEETINGS AND SURVEY*

	10-7	10-14	10-20	Survey	Totals
Option 1	1	1	0	22	24
Option 2	3	0	0	7	10
Option 3	4	16	10	21	51
Option 4	50	55	42	69	216
Total Votes	58	72	52	119	301
School?*	3	14	3	37	57

Voters Selected from These Options

1. Stay with current master plan. Build a 1,500-seat church at 106 and Woodland while maintaining current facilities.

2. Change starting point. Use current master plan, but start with a multipurpose facility, while maintaining the current facility. Construct new church later.

3. Adapt current master plan, by building a larger multipurpose facility, including offices, classrooms and worship space for 900-1,000 people.

Sell current location to pay for new facility. Build new church.

4. Make major change. Remain at 96th Street and create new master plan. Expand current facility by enlarging church and parish hall, and adding classrooms. Build multipurpose facility. May sell all or part of 106th and Woodland property. Insufficient space for school.

*Do you support having a school at Holy Family Parish?

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