

Stepping Stones

News About Our Journey Toward the Future



West Elevation of Proposed Expansion

Drawing by SFS Architecture

Holy Family Parish

www.holyfamily.com

January 2014

Everything Happens in God's Good Time

By Father Matthew Brumleve

When I came to Holy Family nine years ago, we had almost a \$2.2 million debt between the purchase of property at 106th and Woodland and the remaining debt on the education wing.

Now we are totally debt free with \$1.2 million on deposit. A swing of \$3.4 million in net worth is nothing to laugh at. Thank you for believing in the future of this parish!

When I came to Holy Family, I was led to believe everyone was ready to pick up and move to 106th and Woodland come hell or high water.

It took me a while to figure out that this is not what the vast majority of parishioners have in mind when they talk about our future.

Rather than act on just my own hunch, we held a series of town hall meetings in the fall of 2012 just to ask this very question:

Given what you are thinking, and are willing to support financially, would you choose to stay here, move and keep the current master plan for the new property, or move and modify the master plan?

Parishioners indicated overwhelmingly that they would prefer staying put. The lingering question then was,

“Is it possible to stay here?”

We then took that question to our architect, Mike Shaughnessy, whose real gift is not only designing new buildings, but also wonderfully adapting old ones.

Mike developed a plan that would give us a larger worship space (while recapturing the use of the



family room), a larger parish hall, more classrooms and additional parking with the potential of a multi-purpose building at the west end of the property – all for a fraction of the cost we were looking at by building from scratch.

We then presented this plan at a series of town hall meetings this past fall, with the purpose of keeping people informed, as well as laying the groundwork for the plan's buy-in. Anyone can have great plans, but the people need to support it.

And that's where I exit this continuing story. It was my hope to go to Bishop Finn and the diocesan building commission after the first of the year for their approval. That step still needs to happen for anything to move forward.

When I came to Holy Family, I never thought I would be leaving as soon as I am. But that's what happens to diocesan priests. Why?

It is to keep us from becoming too attached to any one place and to keep you from becoming too attached to any one priest. I leave with complete confidence that you are in a good place as a faith community.

You will continue to pray and discern and listen to where God is going to lead you, because *everything happens in God's good time.*

Be open to the possibilities. Be willing to go where God is leading so you can continue to be the best parish you can possibly be. It has been a pleasure.

Questions and Answers from Town Hall Meetings

Following are answers to questions raised during the fall 2013 town hall meetings, where plans for remaining at 96th Street were discussed.

Q: How far into the future does this plan cover?

A: Unfortunately, we don't have a crystal ball. We don't know that answer any more than we know how long it would take us to get the money to build on the new property. There are just too many variables. We are trying to do our best to evaluate the whole picture and make good decisions based on information we have now. It is very important that we put our trust in God and listen to His plan for us in building the Kingdom.

Q: Is this plan to stay here a given?

A: In fall 2012, we asked parishioners what they wanted for Holy Family's future. Those who attended town hall meetings, answered the online survey or contacted the parish overwhelmingly agreed to see if it was viable to stay at 96th Street. Parish leadership took the next step to learn these answers, thus the 2013 town hall meetings. We confirmed that we are able to stay here and expand to fit our needs and current expected growth as explained in the August 2013 Stepping Stones newsletter.

Q: When can we break ground?

A: The cost of expanding the church, parish hall and classrooms is about \$6.5 million. We need to have 50 percent of the needed funds on deposit (\$3.2 million) and another 25 percent in pledges (\$1.6 million) to break ground. We will not kick off a full-blown campaign because the current diocesan \$40 million campaign requires us to guarantee about \$1,000,000 to the diocese. So we will not start a campaign until 2017. If parishioners support this vision and continue giving to the capital improvement fund over the next three years and we kick off a campaign in 2017 with \$1.6 million in pledges, we could break ground in 2017!

Q: What do we build first? The church, classrooms/parish hall or multipurpose building?

A: We will evaluate that in the next planning phase. We cannot worship in the church while it is being expanded. So do we expand the classroom/parish hall space, so we can worship there while the church is being remodeled? Or do we build the multipurpose building first and worship there while the existing

building is expanded? We will face these questions as we move forward.

Q: How much is on deposit for the building fund?

A: We have \$1,219,125 on deposit.

Q: Is the land at 106th and Woodland paid for?

A: Yes, the land at 106th and Woodland was paid off in 2008 after the start of the Our Family, Our Journey, Our Home Campaign.

Q: Can we check on how much a smaller church on the new property would cost?

A: We can check on the cost of a smaller church, but that costs money. We have to consider what is best for the whole parish and the direction parishioners will support. The majority have said they want to stay here. It is evident in our budget that we cannot support two locations. So even building a smaller church does not get us closer to that dream.

Q: When do we pay the diocesan tax?

A: We make monthly payments to the diocese based on our adjusted income from two years prior. Our assessment for the 2013-14 fiscal year is based on income from 2011-12 and paid in 12 equal installments.

Total income is reduced by the sale of property, if any. Income is also reduced by half of the support we give to St. Charles and St. Pius X schools. That adjusted amount is multiplied by the assessment rate of 9.25 percent.

Q: Do we have to sell the property? Can we sell a portion?

A: No, we do not have to sell the property. We can hold on to it or sell a portion. We are preparing to talk to real estate agents to learn its estimated value and recommendations.

Q: Are we taxed on the property sale?

A: No, we are not taxed on the sale.

Q: Where are the original plans of our property at 96th Street? Two plans were drawn up to change this property for the future.

A: We are not sure where these plans are. We will have to investigate. We have heard the other plan showed the church expanding west from the archway. We now have a new parking lot there and that plan

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Discipleship And Mission Your Annual Commitment

By *Patty Whelchel*
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As we begin a new year of programs and activities at Holy Family, we remind you that our dedication is not only **to you, but also because of you.** To provide great worship, programs and classes, as well as fellowship opportunities, **we need your support!**

In December, we sent the 2014 annual stewardship appeal form to those for whom we have email addresses. Thank you to the parishioners who have taken the time to commit to Holy Family's future.

If you have not already done so, you may complete your form in one of several ways:

- ❖ Follow the directions sent to you in the email.
- ❖ Visit www.holyfamily.com/parish-forms to print a copy.
- ❖ Pick up a copy at church from one of the kiosks located by the parish office, at the bottom of the stairs by the parish hall or in the letter holder inside the main church doors.
- ❖ Or, if you have an email address and did not receive a form in December, please email patty@holyfamily.com and I will send an interac-

tive form to you via email.

We would appreciate receiving your commitment by January 31.

The appeal form has two pages. The front is your financial commitment to the parish. You may contribute an amount to the **general operating budget**, as well as to the **capital improvement fund**, to be held in reserves for future repairs, improvements and expansion.

The second page is for your **time and talent.** How have you prayerfully considered to share your gifts with this community? Please enter your initials after the particular ministry of interest.

As always, it is important to us to meet your spiritual and educational needs. Your faith is our priority and hopefully is yours, too.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss your personal situation, please let me know. I am always available to talk with you about any questions or concerns.

May 2014 be filled with many blessings of peace, love and joy.

Q & A

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would likely be no longer feasible.

Q: Will we have pews and kneelers?

A: Definitely, the new church will have pews with kneelers.

Q: Will we be energy efficient?

A: These plans are in the beginning stages. We will do our best to be "green." We know that going green is more costly in the outset but will bring savings down the road.

Q: Will we keep the stained glass windows with the new design?

A: The stained glass windows are an integral part of Holy Family. The windows will stay in

the church, but some may need to be relocated.

Q: Are we asking each family for a specific amount?

A: No, we will not. We know that every family is in a different place, spiritually and financially. We would not expect you to give from what you do not have. We ask each family, as we ask ourselves, to give thanks for God's blessings. Pray about giving back to God what is God's.

Q: What happens after these meetings?

A: We proceed. We continue to pray. The parish leadership will review plans with the new pastor before meeting with Bishop Finn, consult the architects, visit with real estate agents. Pray some more and listen. We again ask that each of you continue to pray, to discern and to continue being disciples building up the Kingdom of God.

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