

January 5 & 6, 2018

TO: Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church

FROM: Future Committee

SUBJECT: Preparing Sacred Heart Parish for the Future

During Father Hoke's Fiscal Report 2017-2018 he mentioned the formation of a Future Committee to look into ways to improve our parish and prepare it for the future.

Objective: To ensure the viability and sustainability of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish as it ministers to the spiritual and temporal needs of our community.

Situation: As you know, the parish has been under financial strain, which was discussed during Father's financial report.

- The good news is that there has been improvement the last couple of years.
- However, the church and rectory require major maintenance and repairs.
- **This is our challenge:** The Diocese has inspected the church and rectory and informed Father that because of their current state *we are not permitted to make any major expenditures on these buildings.*
- We as a parish community are facing a challenge and have some major decisions to make.

Facility Needs: Our church (built in 1885) and rectory are old structures that need costly maintenance to remain viable. The parking area is very limited. The rectory is a large, inefficient building to maintain for one pastor.

Church:

- Restore stained glass windows
- Replace front door
- Paint the exterior
- Replaster walls (will require asbestos mitigation)
- Install railing in the choir loft
- Repair exterior masonry
- HVAC system is over 15 years old
- Roof replacement likely in foreseeable future

Rectory:

- Paint
- Address safety issues
- Improve access for people with physical disabilities

Options: *In most decisions there are at least two options, one being to continue on the current path.*

Option 1: Continue current operations

Advantages:

- Not taking on additional debt if none of the needed repairs are undertaken and there are no unexpected major maintenance problems.

Disadvantages:

- There are major repairs and upgrades needed in the church and rectory.
- The Diocese had mandated that we are not to make major expenditures or upgrades to the church and rectory.
- Depending on the nature of the repair permission may or may not be granted.
- Must hope that expensive repairs are not suddenly needed.
- We could be forced to suddenly move all masses to the parish center with no plan for the future.
- The church and rectory are located about one mile from the parish center making it difficult to link any church community event to weekly masses.
- **Bottom Line:** Does not ensure the viability and sustainability of the parish.

Option 2: Enlarge / remodel our parish center or construct a new church on the Sprenkle Road property so that our church, rectory, and parish center would become one coherent facility

Advantages:

- The Sprenkle Road property has ample room for expansion to meet parish needs
- Has large parking area
- Would foster parish cohesion

Disadvantages:

- Taking on debt
- The project could be a significant challenge to the parish

Next Steps:

- **Nothing has been decided.** This process is in the initial stage. There will be multiple parish meetings to ensure everyone's voice is heard.

- The first parish meeting will be this

Wednesday, January 9 in the Parish Center at 7:00 PM.