



NEWS!

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Fourteen months ago, we announced to the parish that we were going to delay the start of construction of our new church entry, adoration chapel, centralize office area, multi-purpose room/gym and three additional classrooms. Our hope was we would be able to reach a pledged level of four and half million dollars or more to begin construction of the complete project to minimize the total project construction costs. We have been successful to raise more funds but are well short of our target of four and half million dollars.

After the announcement to the parish of the construction delay, we looked at “pocket projects” that are part of the overall scope of our project which would be beneficial to be done during the project delay. Of the several projects reviewed it was decided to do the construction of the rear church entry with handicapped ramp to the gathering space and some associated limited remodeling of the kindergarten room and door between the gathering space and the school hallway. The new rear entrance will provide convenient access from our parking lot to the church. During the construction of the new front entry, it will be our primary entrance to the church.

Also, during this period of delay alternative construction layouts and timetables were explored to move forward on starting construction this year supported by the existing pledge funding we have. We know a two phased project is going to cost more than if we do the complete project but some of our immediate parish needs can be addressed with the funding we have. We worked with our architect to modify the previous two-phase plan to minimize the additional costs and to create a smoother transition from their current work or classroom location to their new one, eliminating the need to find offsite office and storage space during construction. The new plan has a phase 1A, 1B and 2. The schematic layout and the pros and cons of the phases are shown on the attached sheet. Phase 1A and B are the construction of the new ground level entry,

centralized offices, and adoration chapel. Phase 2 is the multipurpose room/gym, kitchen and three classrooms. Please take some time to review this sheet for a better understanding of these phases.

In the past few weeks, meetings have been held with representatives of the Parish Finance Council, Building and Grounds Committee, School Board, Faith Formation Group, Parish Staff, and the St. Bernard's is Building Committee to review the plan to move forward with construction this coming summer. The next step before we can start construction is to authorize our architect to create the construction plans which the Finance Council has approved.

The construction plans on the attached sheet are the next level of drawings, detailing the schematic and designs. The construction drawings detail is needed by the various contractors to create their bids determining the cost of the new building. The timetable for creating the construction drawings, sending out the drawings for bidding and having the final bids back to us for opening is about three and half to four months. Once we have the bids, we will have a firm cost of the various elements of the building construction to determine what we can build.

The approval of phase 1A and 1B is anticipated and we would move forward this summer. Phase 2 would be ready to move forward if we successfully reach the goal of four and a half million dollars of pledged funds. Our hope is that additional funds will be in place by the time we are completing phases 1A and 1B. This will keep the contractors on site, and we can complete this project as timely and efficiently as possible. Please continue to pray for this project so we can continue to build a successful parish and educate our young people to be leaders in our communities.

