

## DECEMBER 17/18 PROJECT PRESENTATION

My name is Jeff Beswick, and Jim MacLachlan and Sheila Steffel and I are the co-chairs for our Opening Doors Capital Campaign to fund the improvements and renovations to our parish campus.

I'm here today to provide an update on developments regarding our project.

I'd like to begin by reminding all of us that, after years of discernment and planning, we have collectively undertaken this important project to update and improve our facilities, in order to enhance our ministries and our ability to do Christ's work in our community. So as we face and overcome project challenges together, we continue to be focused on our collective objective to do God's work.

The information I share with you today has been developed as a result of the bidding process over the last several months, meetings with the Diocese within the last two weeks, and a parish leadership meeting last week.

So I want to share two things with you: (1) first, new information regarding the project and our fundraising, and (2) second, the path forward for our project.

First, the new information. Our original project cost projections, made three years ago, estimated a project cost of \$5.5 million dollars. Thanks to all of you, we have enjoyed a highly successful Capital Campaign, through which we have received pledges and funding of \$5.1 million dollars. We are experiencing very regular and loyal fulfillment of your pledges, which we deeply appreciate.

In late June we reported to you that our estimated project cost had risen to about \$6.1 million dollars and that we were making some changes to the project to constrain costs, and we also noted that until we completed the bidding process, costs could continue to rise. Well, we have now completed about 90% of our bidding process, and we have learned that our project will cost about \$6.8 million dollars.

The cost of the project has grown as a result of a number of factors beyond our control including: (1) construction inflation, (2) aggressive demand for construction services, (3) a shortage of skilled trade workers, (4) unexpected and winter construction costs, and (5) additional components of the new building and church renovations which were not included in the original plans.

We continue to refine our construction schedule, including the work to be completed in this worship space. Many of us have welcomed the project as an opportunity to improve our worship space and add seating capacity, and so we have been developing our plans to enhance this worship space. Improvements to our worship space will begin this winter, and they will be completed later this spring, although the worship space improvements may not begin until later in January or February.

Despite these changes in costs and construction schedules, our parish leadership remains fully committed to complete our Opening Doors building project, and to do these critical parish improvements right, in a way which will honor all of the important objectives of the Opening Doors vision, including full handicap accessibility, unifying our parish campus, creating an exciting new gathering space, and enhancing our worship space, especially sound, lighting, floor plan, and capacity.

Second, what is our path forward to complete the project? First, construction work on the new building and gathering space is continuing as scheduled. Second, we are working on a variety of initiatives to close our funding gap – the gap between the \$6.8 million dollar project cost and our \$5.1 million dollars of pledges. These efforts include: (1) one, we will engage new donors from within our parish family, (2) two, we will partner with the Diocese to fund the balance of the project, and we will utilize the Parish's regular annual and reliable bequest income to repay the Diocese, (3) three, we will seek new funds from other community resources, and (4) four, we will also implement some new fundraising programs, such as Buy-A-Brick type programs. Finally, we will schedule some all-parish informational meetings in early 2017, so that you can get more in-depth information regarding our project from parish leadership and our architect and project manager.

Please know that our Pastor, our Diocese, our parish leadership, and our volunteer master planning committee, pastoral council, and finance council, have all fully endorsed this project and this path forward, and they are all working very hard behind the scenes, on behalf of all of us, to lead and successfully complete this work. They are doing their best to address and overcome these unexpected challenges, and we will move forward and succeed. We are in good hands, because they are God's hands, and your hands, and mine.

And so, in the spirit of cooperation and shared mission, we ask for your prayers for our project, and for all who are working hard to complete the beautiful vision we have undertaken. We thank you for your understanding, your patience, and your continuing faithful efforts to fulfill your pledges. And we look forward to seeing you at the informational meetings to be scheduled early in the new year.

Thank you for your attention, your sacrifice, and for your consistent support of our shared parish mission.