

Making Room at our Table

The snow has melted and the signs of spring are popping up all around Saint Joseph. Flowers are starting to bloom and residents are outside walking and taking in the beautiful weather. One sign of spring I have noticed for our parish is the number of people who have been spending time outside the church to visit with one another after Mass on Saturday evenings and Sundays. After many months of cold weather that encourages people to hustle to their cars, this sign of spring is a sign that fellowship opportunities are important for the people of our parish.

The Planning and Design Committee formed by Fr. Joseph last fall, has been meeting regularly and a letter was mailed at the end of March updating the parish on the activities of this committee. Our first task has been to evaluate the results of the PFET (Programming and Facilities Evaluation Team) report, along with the surveys and the parish socials that were held last summer. We then started work on initiating an RFP (request for proposal) process that will allow the parish to retain an architect to create schematic drawings to potentially expand our campus.

The PFET report highlighted our ability to make due with the limited spaces we have, but it is apparent that as we look toward the future, we need to build on the strong community present in our parish and provide the necessary space to do so. One of the major elements suggested in the report is to create a gathering space that can be used for fellowship after Masses and for groups to gather and meet.

Bishop Kinney has given our parish permission to proceed with Phase One of a potential building project that includes assessing needs and contracting an architect to develop schematics of the project. Later phases will address the financial planning and project approval. An anonymous donor, who has an interest in this project, has contributed funds that will cover the costs of this initial phase. No funds will be used from our annual operating budget.

Currently, the RFP process to contract an architect is underway and the committee will be meeting with the potential candidates in May. The parish will be kept informed with every step of the process through letters, the newsletter, and our parish website.

*Anita Fischer, Member
Planning & Design Team*