

**Immaculate Parish Renovation Committee**  
**Minutes – May 30, 2019**

Members Present: Br. Martin, Fr. John, Matt Gray, Lisa Prendergast, Bill Weikel, John Castlen, Rick Ebelhar, Steven Weaver, Sarah Ford, Lisa Sims, Julie Renshaw

Meeting opened with the Renovation Prayer at 6:40 pm on Thursday, May 30, 2019 in Classroom A.

**Agenda**

- Check in with Members Since April Meeting
- Review of Architects' Portfolios
- Interview Process
- Target Renovation Figure
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**Check in with Members Since April Meeting**

-Fr. John informed the committee that he had been given another article critiquing the document, Built of Living Stones.

-Br Martin reminded the group that any document written by an individual, whether theologian, canon lawyer or bishop of a diocese other than their own has no juridical standing and is therefore the personal opinion of that individual. The Conference of the Bishops of the United States accepted this document in 2000 after exhaustive consultation with over 1000 qualified liturgical experts and 200 bishops culminating in a vote by the assembly of bishops. This document, in all ways, conforms to the norms in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Canon Law and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. These ARE the guidelines used in the dioceses of the United States and in the Diocese of Owensboro. The discussion regarding the validity of this document is concluded.

-Matt asked Lisa Prendergast to take the minutes of the committee meetings.

**Review of the Portfolios of Prospective Architects**

- Br. Martin presented the portfolios of three architecture firms to the Committee. All of them have experience. All of them are willing to come for an interview. Br. Martin shared the photos from their portfolios.
- **Michell Allen Ritz** is a firm located in New Albany, IN. Its principal architect is **David Allen**. He is the architect working on the St. Pius renovation project. His religious work includes, but is not limited to, the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville, KY; the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN; Saint Monica Church in Indianapolis, IN; the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, Kentucky; Br. Martin also shared some of the plans the architect developed for St. Pius.
- **Entheos Architects**, a firm located in Indianapolis, IN, only works on religious architecture projects. They prepared the plans for the renovation of Saint Benedict Cathedral in Evansville, IN. **Michael Eagan** is the principal architect. Their portfolio is quite extensive. Mr. Eagan designed the new Saint Mary of the Knobs Church in Floyd Knobs, IN. The firm worked on several churches in Gary, IN, including the Cathedral of the Holy Angels. They've also renovated churches in Indianapolis, IN. Br. Martin observed they have experience in the more traditional architecture as well as contemporary architecture.
- **Hafer Design** is a large firm located in Evansville, IN that lists an office in Owensboro, They have done work on a number of religious buildings, including the recent renovation of the Monte Cassino Shrine located near Saint Meinrad Archabbey. One of the firm's principals is architect **Jack Faber**. Mr. Faber was the lead architect the renovation of

Saint Meinrad Archabbey several years ago. They are involved in the renovation of the Holy Rosary Church and K-8 school in Evansville, IN.

- Br. Martin recommended that each of these firms be invited to talk to the Committee.
- Br. Martin believes that all three firms are conversant with the documents on Catholic Church architectural and liturgical requirements.

### **Interview Process**

- Three dates are proposed to the firms to find out their availability for an interview. The goal is to only use one of those dates – preferably an evening or a Saturday. Interview times will be determined after the date is set. The Committee decided on the following Saturdays as the dates to provide the architects: **July 20, July 27, and August 3.**
- Each firm will then be contacted and invited to interview. The order in which they will be interviewed will be determined by lottery. The firms will be given time to prepare their presentations between the date of the invitation and the date of the interview.
- Each firm will be given the “Program for Renovation of the Immaculate” proposal which was shared with the Parish Council. This is a list of we would like to do and they will choose how to respond to it. The format of their presentation is entirely up to each firm.
- Before their interviews, the firms can come to the Immaculate as frequently as they want to look around in preparation for their interviews. The Committee will consider which architects have put the most thought into their presentations.
- Discussion was held on whether the entire Committee should be involved in the interviews or a smaller group of members should be. It was the consensus that all members who can attend should do so. A few members will ask the questions at each interview while the other members observe and listen.
- The firms will be informed that the interviews will be timed. Each interview will last 30 minutes – 15 minutes for presentation followed by 15 minutes of questions from the Committee. Each session will end promptly at the 30-minute mark. Then there will be a 30-minute break between interviews to allow for the next firm to set up or do whatever they need do before making their presentation. This break will be used by the Committee to discuss the interview that just took place.
- Br. Martin advised having a list of questions to ask, which will put the firms on a level playing field. He provided the Committee with a list of suggested questions to consider when interviewing architects.

### **Target Renovation Cost Figure**

- The architects will be provided with a ballpark figure of the renovation cost so they can have some idea to work with in preparing their design concepts. This will also help them calculate their fee, which is based on a percentage of project cost.
- The Committee needs to determine the target cost figure for the renovation. Discussion was held about how to arrive at such a figure. We would need to know how much the parish can afford and how much money the parish could raise. It was noted that for the construction of the Parish Family Center, an outside group was used to canvass the parishioners on the amount they could contribute. However, materials for a parish hall tend to be less expensive than materials for a church. It was the consensus of the committee to talk to the Finance Committee. After consultation, we will provide the architectural firms with a target fee for the renovation and a realistic estimate of funds that could possibly be raised for the project.

### **Educational Sessions**

- The interview and selection process will take place this summer. The educational sessions will be held in the fall. These sessions, which are open to all parishioners, will focus on church art and architecture and on the liturgical principles that have shaped our worship through the ages but especially since the Second Vatican Council.
- Depending on when the architect is chosen, the architect will be asked to begin to prepare preliminary schematic drawings. These would include a floor plan and elevation drawings of both the exterior and interior of the building. When the drawings have been

developed and are considered acceptable by the committee, they will be shared with the parish at large.

**Other Items**

- Matt brought up that it is time to encourage the parish to pray the Renovation Prayer. Cards with the prayers will be placed in the pockets of the missalette/hymnal covers in the pews. These are due to be changed out soon.
- Inspirational and general information about renovation of a worship space will be placed in the bulletins as part of the parish educational process. Br. Martin offered to provide Matt with information to use.
- Matt announced that beginning the weekend of June 8-9, a three-week stewardship drive will take place.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the Committee will take place on the date for the architect interviews, to be determined.

Fr. John closed with a prayer. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

/s/ Lisa Prendergast  
Secretary