

Immaculate Parish Renovation Cmte

Minutes – April 10, 2018

Members Present: Br. Martin, Matt Gray, Fr. Tony, Lisa Prendergast, Lisa Sims, John Castlen, Rick Ebelhar, Sarah Ford, Julie Renshaw, Dot Reid, and Bill Weikel.

Meeting Opened with a Prayer.

Tonight Dot and Julie gave their presentation on the first 2 chapters of “Built of Living Stones.” The chapters are 1) The Living Church and 2) The Church Building and the Sacred Rites.

In Summary –

Chapter 1 -Church art and architecture should be based on the theology of the Eucharistic assembly and its liturgical action

- The house of prayer must be expressive of the presence of God and suited for the celebration of the sacraments

Chapter 2 -Liturgical principles must be applied when building or renovating liturgical space. There are spatial demands of the major liturgical celebrations during the year.

- The church building and religious artwork are forms of worship that inspire and are reflective of the prayer of the community.

The presentation covered every area of the church that should be considered when doing a renovation: The congregation’s area, the sanctuary, the altar, the presider’s chair, the ambo, the baptistery, the reservation of the Eucharist, the gathering space, and even the outside of the building. Some of these areas we have already examined in detail in previous meetings.

An important point made in tonight’s presentation and discussion, was that the “living church” (that is the people) including all the necessary ministers, need a worship space that allows all of them to carry out liturgical actions and worship/prayer without any barriers or impediments. During a renovation, all liturgical actions need to be considered; not only Eucharistic celebrations, but all devotions, prayer services, sacraments, and even the Sacred Triduum liturgies that only take place once per year should all be considered when designing the layout and selecting appointments.

The Church is in fact “living” people and the building becomes their “house of prayer.”

Other Business

The committee discussed the selection of architects, which will be approaching soon after the last presentation next month. Br. Martin advised the group on how to create a list of architectural firms, narrow it down to only a few who will then be selected to come meet the group and make a presentation to the committee which will help the group make a final selection.

Fr. Tony expressed that we already have a renovation fund started to cover some of the preliminary architectural fees during the next fiscal year.

Future Meeting Dates

Wednesday, May 9, 6PM