

Immaculate Parish Renovation Cmte

Minutes – March 6, 2018

Members Present: Br. Martin, Matt Gray, Lisa Prendergast, Lisa Sims, John Castlen, Rick Ebelhar, Sarah Ford, and Bill Weikel.

Meeting Opened with a Prayer.

*February's meeting was canceled due to Brother Martin's absence.

Tonight Matt, Rick and Bill delivered their presentation on "God's House is Our House" which was a section about 3 types of chapels that are commonly used within a parish church.

The three types of chapels are:

- Daily Chapel – for daily Mass, or small gatherings for prayer/devotions
- Reservation Chapel – for the Reservation of the Sacrament (Eucharist) within a tabernacle
- Reconciliation Chapel – a special place for the sacrament of reconciliation

The group learned about all three chapels; the background, their purposes and how they play a role in how the faithful practice their faith.

The group commented that making plans for a daily chapel would not be practical, or even necessary, based on a couple of facts: the current building design just won't allow for the addition of a chapel without a major 'add-on' outside of the current walls, and because there are times that we have a larger than expected number of parishioners/visitors who attend daily Mass (sometimes up to 100).

A lot of discussion took place about the Reservation Chapel and/or the placement of the tabernacle within the church. The book explored the two basic options: - Behind the Altar but apart from it – In a place that is distinct but still visible from the main part of the church. Keeping the tabernacle behind the Altar will require some design to keep the Altar as the focal point during the Eucharistic celebration. This could be achieved through lighting, use of architectural appointment (such as a screen, what the tabernacle is sitting on, etc) and the placement of the Altar in proximity to the tabernacle. The second option of setting side a chapel or place outside of the sanctuary could result in the loss of some seating in the assembly in our church.

The Reconciliation Chapel – while we may not be able to design a separate room for this chapel, the group all agreed that the current room will benefit significantly with a renovation. This could be as simple as change of carpet/flooring, wall treatment/paint, furniture and lighting.

Other Business

Brother Martin expressed that now is the time to alert the newly assigned pastor about this committee and brief him about where we are in the process. Fr. Tony also asked about when is

an appropriate time to create a budget line for any preliminary work of this committee. Br. Martin said that we are on track to be calling on the services of an architect for preliminary drawings sometime within the 2018-2019 budget year. So Matt is following up on gathering info that will give us only a “ballpark” estimate of what those costs might be to assist in creating that budget line item.

Future Meeting Dates

Tuesday, April 10, 6PM

Wednesday, May 9, 6PM