

On Problems to be solved with our New Building II

6. Right now our narthex has no room for much of anything except a pamphlet stand. The new narthex will enable us to have a number of things we could really use;

a. A good choir loft. Presently our choir loft takes up much needed pew space, is not centered, and has very poor ventilation. Its layout prevents good acoustics. The new choir loft will be above the narthex, spacious, well ventilated, and centered.

b. There isn't much of a provision for parents who need to take their children out of Mass for a while. They use the connecting hall, but that is quite separated from the Mass. The new narthex will have a glass partition (this wall required by city code anyway, but it can serve a useful purpose) so that anyone who needs to use it can both hear and see the Mass much better, have room to walk around a little to quiet the kids, or even sit down if needed.

c. We lack a baptistery. The new narthex will have a good baptistery, and will have plenty of room for family to participate and see the first part of the sacrament, which cannot be done very well at present. Our traditional rite of baptism has three stages, and the new narthex will enable us to do the first two properly.

7. The sacristy:

a. The sacristy is very small, which is fine for low Masses. But it is not suited to the Solemn High Mass, the regular celebration of which is one of our goals in the liturgy. There is no heating or cooling for the priest's sacristy. It would be a blessing to have this ventilation, heating and cooling on hot days and cold.

b. We lack a boy's sacristy. The new sacristy will have one, using the currently unused space between the sacristy and the parish hall.

c. We also lack a work sacristy

(for candles, flowers, repair, cleaning of the thuribles, etc.) The Altar and Rosary Society currently uses the kitchen for much of this, but it is not very satisfactory.

The remodeled sacristy should take care of each of these problems.

8. Presently the priests have their offices in their bedrooms or in the case of the pastor, a small suite. The space now taken up by the crucifixion scene in front of the buildings will be made into office space.

a. This will improve reception greatly, since now the secretary must go clear across the parish hall to answer the door, and puts her at a disadvantage in seeing who is coming. The new secretary/receptionist office will enable her to see who is coming, and quickly receive guests.

b. The priests will gain sufficient office space.

c. The secretary, bookkeeper, business manager and others must all share one small room right now, and it has insufficient storage. The new office space will be far better adapted to those needs.

d. We do not have a conference room or a vestibule. In the new area we will have a room which can double as both.

e. Our restrooms are too small, and poorly ventilated (especially the ladies room) and not handicapped accessible. The new restrooms will be, spacious, well-ventilated, and larger, with more stalls. The new ladies restroom will be slightly larger than both men's and ladies restrooms combined in our present situation. Both men's and women's bathrooms will have changing stations.

9. The parish hall: Our present hall is divided up into inefficient partitions.

a. The kitchen will be moved to the back, with a much greater capacity, and will solve the problem of the present kitchen being a passageway, and not having enough storage. The old stove will be replaced with a new one.

b. The new hall will be far more spacious, and will solve the problem of difficulty of movement and accessibility.

c. We have inadequate windows currently; single pane and no screens. The new windows will have both.

d. The glass used all over the parish hall is not safety glass, thus posing a danger to children. All the new glass will be safety glass.

e. We will add a fence around our property, which will give us added security for when the children are playing.

f. We'll add a pitched roof to the

hall, which will eliminate the problems that come with flat roofs.

10. Our basement now is hard to move around in, and does not give us adequate space for education and storage. The new basement will be larger, with handicapped access, an extra fire exit, better lighting, and room to store our heating and cooling units.

Finally, there are many other problems with our plumbing, electrical works, and such things like all the rotting wood around the roof of the parish hall. There are too many to mention, but I hope with this insert and last week's, you can see the advantage of fixing these together, as opposed to piecemeal patching.