

St. Bonaventure Parish Family,

As of the end of October, *Project 2020* has received cash, pledges and commitments of approximately \$3.8 million. This is fantastic news, and I prayerfully and joyfully say THANK YOU! with all of my being to the 465 families who have made this historic commitment for the benefit and future of our wonderful St. Bonaventure parish family.

I am amazed at how God continues to shower our parish with His many blessings and arranges everything to work in tandem. Not only is He guiding us in a successful *Project 2020* that will dramatically improve our physical campus, He is also profoundly blessing us spiritually. By His grace, we have recently started a number of faith-based initiatives I believe will radically increase the number of parishioners who will begin to live their faith in a new and dynamic way.

As more and more of our parishioners experience a true conversion of heart and encounter Jesus in a deep and personal relationship, you will see our parish family grow in their faith as never before. The new improvements we make to our campus facilities will provide a perfect welcoming environment for a growing parish coming alive in their faith. You will hear more about these faith-based initiatives soon.

As I will explain below, we are getting very close to where we need to be to start construction on the areas you, as a parish, have considered the most important.

The original budget for the *Project 2020* Master Plan was \$10.5 million, which included a Narthex/Gathering Space, Parish Center, School Improvements and Houses/Parking/Site Preparation. While it would naturally be preferable to do the entire project according to the original Master Plan, we have to schedule construction based on project priorities and funds committed for the project.

Initial feedback from the *Project 2020* Focus Groups, comments received on the pledge cards and general remarks made to the Building Committee, gave clear priority to the Narthex/Gathering Space, Parish Center, and Houses/Parking/Site Preparation areas. The original budget for these three components was \$6.5 million.

We asked our architectural firm, BCDM, to present us with various options for these three priority areas, while exploring ways we could get the \$6.5 million cost closer to what we expect to be our available committed funds.

After a number of meetings to revise and assess the best options for the long-term benefit of our parish, the Building Committee chose these changes to be made to the original Master Plan.

- Narthex/Gathering Space: Original Budget - \$856,714. No changes made.
- Parish Center: Original Budget - \$3,867,458. New Budget - \$3,487,603. Savings include removing the full kitchen feature and removing the room partitions. Both of these items can be added at a later date when funds are available.
- Houses/Parking/Site Preparation: Original Budget - \$1,765,375. New Budget - \$875,241. The savings result primarily from eliminating parking areas that are not needed at this time.
- The school changes and related improvements (\$4,936,939) will be delayed until funds are available at a future date.

The Building Committee explored other cost cutting options, particularly in the Parish Center, but all of these involved reducing the size of the building. The Building Committee firmly believes this would be a mistake and not in the best long-term interest of the parish. I agree with that opinion.

The revised budget for the three priority components (Narthex/Gathering Space, Parish Center and Houses/Parking/Site Preparation) is \$5,219,558, which leaves us about \$1.4 million short of what we need. Getting to the 5 million puts us in reach of meeting our needs so “*Let’s hit 5!*” I really don’t want to have to take out a loan. That’s why your help is so necessary. This is your parish. This is a legacy for you and your children’s children.

While pledges and donations still continue to come in, I want to make a special appeal to the approximately 1200 families who have not made a commitment yet. May we grow bold in our desire to participate in what God envisions for the future, not because of who we are, but because of who God is. If each of you would send in your pledge card with what you prayerfully decide you can afford, we can easily raise the \$1.4 million necessary to complete the Narthex/Gathering Space, Parish Center and the Houses/Parking/Site Preparation components of the project as described in this letter.

I fully realize the capability to support this project is different for each family. While many can support a higher level than this, if each of the 1200 families who have not participated would commit just \$33 per month for three years, we would cover our \$1.4 million shortfall.

If you have not sent in a pledge card yet, this letter includes a pledge card and envelope for you. Please prayerfully consider how much you can contribute, and fill out the card accordingly. You can mail it in, drop it in the weekend collection basket or drop it off at the office.

I would also encourage the families who have already made a commitment to prayerfully consider increasing your level of support. One way to do this is to add one more year of commitment to the amount you have pledged or check with your workplace for a matching pledge. Please contact Belinda in the parish office, 564 -7151 if you would like to do this or make any additional changes to your pledge. Your extra sacrifice would be so valuable to our parish and be very, very much appreciated! To show our recognition and gratitude to those families who have made pledges to Project 2020, the names are listed in this letter and will be displayed in the entryway of the church, which will be continually updated as more pledges come in. Pledge amounts will not be listed. Please take the opportunity to thank these parishioners for their sacrifice to *Project 2020*.

If you have any questions about *Project 2020*, please contact me, or talk to any of the Building Committee members. Their names and phone numbers are listed below.

THANK YOU, and may God sincerely bless you for the wonderful support you are showing our St. Bonaventure Parish. “*Let’s HIT 5!*”

In Christ,



Fr. Mike

Mike Dreesen	402-659-9881	Dennis Grennan	402-563-1425	Don Heimes	402-910-1548
Deacon Dan Keiter	402-649-3332	Clete Pillen	402-276-0692	Joel Young	402-276-6016
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