

## **SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESPONSES FROM OUR TOWN HALL MEETING**

Dear Members of St. Rose of Lima Parish,

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to participate in our survey following the Town Hall meeting in December. There were 125 responses, between the online and paper surveys returned. The responses totaled 32 type-written pages, which I and the members of our parish pastoral and finance councils have had the opportunity to read through and discuss. Below, I would like to offer a summary of those responses along with some comments on how we plan to move forward. They are organized by the topics of our Town Hall meeting.

### **TOPIC 1: THE STATE OF OUR PAROCHIAL SCHOOL**

#### **Summary of Responses**

Many respondents expressed a deep concern for continuing to monitor the long-term viability of our school. While the responses showed an overall support for the mission of Catholic education, and a desire to see St. Rose of Lima School succeed, they also manifested a realistic understanding of what will need to happen for our school to succeed. The five-year plan, which essentially focuses on decreasing parish subsidy, was accepted as a good benchmark for success.

#### **Comments on Moving Forward**

Our school community has already been busy about focusing on what needs to change, and how we might improve, in order to become fiscally responsible. Our recent fundraising gala was a huge success, financial policies revolving around tuition and parent involvement are being revised and implemented, and our Board of Education is seeking to take a more active role in the promotion and advancement of our school. As we continue forward, regular updates will be made to the parish on the state of our school and the church's financial contribution to it. Transparency will be key to making our plan a success.

### **TOPIC 2: THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PARKING**

#### **Summary of Responses**

Question 2 on the survey asked respondents to rank the four options presented, which were: 1) find additional parking opportunities around us; 2) purchase neighboring property for parking; 3) redevelop some portion of our own property; 4) move everything to a new location. The results were overwhelmingly in favor of looking first to option 1. About 65% made that their first choice. About 80% made option 4, moving everything to a new location, their last choice. This tells us that the majority favor a focus on maintaining the properties we currently own and finding increased opportunities for parking where we are, while very few are in favor of pursuing new construction. Of the 85 comments made regarding these four options, many expressed concern over the expense of options 3 and 4 and the fact that moving to a new location has been attempted and was not successful in the past.

#### **Comments on Moving Forward**

There has already been some progress made regarding additional parking around us. At a recent meeting with the York City parking safety committee, we successfully petitioned to allow parking along the east-bound side Market Street on Sunday mornings. This spring, signage will be changed to indicate this new allowance. Please note, parking is not allowed until those signs are changed. Additionally, we have been in conversation with First Capital Engineering and the Women's Care Center about using their

lots, which are immediately behind First Capital Engineering, across Richland Avenue. We hope to publish a map indicating where parking is allowed in the near future.

### **TOPIC 3: OUR MASS TIMES AND HOW THEY MIGHT CHANGE**

#### **Summary of Responses**

Question 5 asked whether respondents supported the proposed change to Mass times. Of the 125 responses given, 112 were positive. As a reminder, the proposed changes were for the 10am Mass at school to move up to 9:15am and for the 10:30am Mass at church to move back to 11am. The other Masses would remain at their current times. A number of concerns were expressed about how the time changes will effect Religious Education classes on Sunday morning. Additionally, many alternative schedule options were presented that might better accommodate the needs of some.

#### **Comments on Moving Forward**

No change to our Mass times will be made before the end of this school year. Over the course of the next few months, I hope to continue studying the needs of our parish and what Mass schedule might be best. Understanding that no schedule will accommodate everyone's needs or desires, we will try to make only those changes that are in the best interest of our parish as a whole.

### **TOPIC 4: POSSIBLE RENOVATIONS TO THE INTERIOR OF OUR CHURCH**

#### **Summary of Responses**

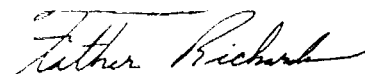
Question 8 asked about the possible renovation of our church's interior. Respondents were split roughly in half. Many comments expressed a desire to renew the church with painting and lighting, making it a more attractive space that is fitting for divine worship. Many others expressed a desire to fix only that which is necessary and leave the rest, particularly with concern for the cost involved. Some expressed doubts about investing money in the current church while we are considering the possibility of a new church elsewhere.

#### **Comments on Moving Forward**

There appears to be a strong enough desire for some interior renovation to warrant continued investigation and consideration. Proposals are being made, which will include digital renderings, so that all can see what a renovated church might look like. While the immediate priorities are certainly with the welfare of our parochial school and the need to find additional parking, this topic will continue to be a focus of our overall parish plan moving forward. Based on the responses under topic 2, the option of building a new church does not appear to be feasible and therefore poses no obstacle to investing in our current church.

Thank you all for your continued interest and participation in the future of our parish. May God bless all our efforts, and may St. Rose of Lima intercede for us in all our needs.

In Christ,



Father Richards