

## **Feasibility Study Update: Frequently Asked Questions**

Over the past three weeks we shared information regarding the building project feasibility study. We shared the process that was followed to elicit input from a broad group of parishioners regarding priorities for all aspects of parish ministry. We shared the prioritized recommendations of these parishioners. And, we shared the next steps in the process. In case you missed these articles, you can access them via the St. Gabriel website: <http://stgabrielhubertus.org/committees/building-project-feasibility-study/>. Throughout this process there were three predominant questions by parishioners.

**Question 1: What is the future of collaboration with St. Boniface?** Over the past year, leaders of St. Gabriel and St. Boniface pastoral councils including Fr. Tim and Fr. Loyola and representatives of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee have continued to discuss the future of our respective parishes and what collaboration means. The conversations have resulted in the following agreements: Both parishes will continue to operate their respective parishes, schools and ministerial programs. When personnel vacancies occur, parish leadership will consult with one another to see if there are opportunities to share personnel. And, in accordance with the Vision 2020 plan of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, the parishes will eventually be served by one pastor. However, there will continue to be two priests serving the sacramental needs of both parishes.

**Question 2: Why not make improvements at the existing school building?** There are two reasons why making improvements at the existing school building is not desirable. First, a 2012 facility assessment of the school identified \$1.1 million in basic infrastructure improvements: mechanical, electrical, plumbing, windows, roofing and paving necessary to meet current building codes, education facility standards and general facility maintenance to extend the life of the school for beyond just a few years. It is estimated that these basic improvements would now cost at least \$1.3 million. That would not improve configuration of the space, nor create 21<sup>st</sup> Century library, science and technology spaces, nor alter the undersized, unsafe gymnasium. In addition, this option would not address the #1 recommendation from the needs assessment: *“To create one central campus to advance the mission of the entire parish community and for use by all the ministries of the parish including shared space to be used by the school, religious education, adult faith formation, prayer and worship, human concerns, etc.* Making improvements at the existing school building would not unite us as one parish community with all ministries sharing space. It would not be forward-looking. It would not be sound stewardship. It would not be wise.

**Question 3: Are we actually going to do something this time?** There have been several attempts to move forward with the original vision as established when St. Gabriel was founded...to expand at our current location. Those attempts were halted for a variety of reasons: there was a lack of consensus about priorities, the St. Gabriel-St. Boniface future relationship was unclear, the Archdiocese launched the Faith in Our Future Campaign, we endured the Great Recession, Fr. Chuck announced he was leaving, etc. This time, we have utilized a comprehensive process to elicit input and establish priorities for all parish ministries. We have worked closely with the Archdiocese and St. Boniface to establish a clear vision for the future. Fr. Tim was installed as pastor of St. Gabriel Parish by Archbishop ListECKI last month for a term of at least six years, renewable for another six years. So, it is fair to say that the parish leadership has every intention of moving forward with a capital campaign, pending the results of the feasibility study.

What remains unknown is how much *creating one central campus to advance the mission of the entire parish community, and for use by all ministries of the parish including shared space to be used by the school, religious education, adult faith formation, prayer and worship, human concerns etc.* will cost, and, what level of financial, spiritual and volunteer support exists to accomplish this goal. That is why, as was explained in the October 4 bulletin article, we will be conducting a feasibility study this fall to

determine the scope and level of support for a building project.

We hope that these bulletin articles have been informational. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Building Project Feasibility Study Steering Committee. You can reach us by emailing [stgabrielfeasibility@gmail.com](mailto:stgabrielfeasibility@gmail.com) or by calling any member of the committee. Stay tuned to the bulletin, parish website and upcoming issues of the *Messenger* for more information.

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