

January 23, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Hello all, from Washington DC! It is inspiring to be amongst so many thousands of people advocating for life!

I have had a handful of folks asking me recently about the status of our capital campaign for the building expansion. I wanted to give some basic information as to where we are in that process as of right now.

First, our current pledge amount is slightly more than what is posted. At this point, we have picked up some additional pledges, bringing our pledged amount to approximately \$2,350,000. We have every right to be proud of that number!

However, as we have all been noticing even when we go grocery shopping, prices of many items have gone up in the last year, and this is certainly true of building materials like steel, wood, pipe and wiring. Because of this, unfortunately initial estimates of cost-to-build have inflated significantly in the last year to the point that we will likely have to adjust not only some design details, but also may have to forego finishing out portions of the building until a later date.

At our latest building committee meeting on Tuesday, we tried to break down what we need most immediately while still allowing for ease of finishing and utility in the future. As of now, we are going to proceed in getting final construction drawings for quotes for the project as drawn, with the following exceptions:

- 1) We will subtract any modifications of the offices and will not do any work to the narthex skylight at this time.
- 2) The dormers that extend from the second floor will be omitted in favor of in-roof skylights, which will save a significant amount of money for a minimum of loss of 2nd-floor space.
- 3) At this time, we will build out the structure and rough in plumbing and electrical supply for the second floor, but will not finish out the second floor meeting rooms and bathrooms.

Even with these concessions, we are still approximately \$500,000 shy of being able to do the project with current and pledged funds. This may necessitate that we either take out a loan for the difference or ask folks to make new or extended pledges. The other eventuality is that in the months until we will be getting bids, materials prices may stabilize and begin to come back down. We certainly will be prudent and wait for this to happen if it looks to be a likelihood!

Some have asked if we are going to go ahead with the project if we cannot make the goal. Our position is, we are going to make the goal, and we will have a building! It may be that we will not be able to get everything we want right away, but we will get there! Once again, I thank everyone whose hard work and generosity have helped us to get to this point. You are inspirations!

In Jesus Christ the Lord of Life,

-Fr. Chris