**Parish Future Committee Presentation**

**Sunday, March 14 after the 9:00 AM Mass**

(3/10/21 Final)

**Charlie:**

As we have mentioned, the Parish Future Committee will provide the parish with periodic updates as we work on the Feasibility Study. Today we will touch upon these topics:

* Brief reminder of the process (Charlie)
* Summary of the assessment of existing facilities (Heather-Marie)
* Personal thoughts about the parish (Mark Miller)
* Importance of our parish to the spiritual and temporal needs of our community (Deacon Tom)
* Pastor’s comments (Father Michael)
* Next steps (Charlie)
* Questions (All)

*Process:*

Early in the Concept Study we communicated the situation at Masses. The committee then held a follow-up parish meeting, distributed feedback forms and a survey, and conducted three parish supper meetings during which financial information and survey feedback results were presented and open discussions were held.

The Concept Study identified the need to transition to the Sprenkle Road property and Bishop Gainer gave us permission to continue with the next step – the Feasibility Study.

**Heather-Marie:**

*Assessment of Existing Facilities:*

As during the Concept Study, we will be transparent with the current financial situation regarding maintenance issues at the two buildings on Main Street. Although we will share with parishioners the recommendation of the diocese and the Parish Future Committee, the purpose of this meeting is to get parishioner viewpoints and answer questions that may arise.

Previously we reported that we had consulted with representatives from the diocese about the condition of our buildings. We were advised to not spend additional money on the badly needed repairs and upgrades to the church and rectory, which led to the conclusions of the Concept Study.

Several weeks ago, Father and I met with the Diocesan Director of Buildings and Properties. We again inspected the buildings (both Main Street and Sprenkle Road) and compiled a long list of necessary maintenance, repairs, and upgrades.

Church: Built in 1885

* Stained glass windows need to be repaired - 2013 estimate $50,000-80,000
* The exterior is in dire need of repainting, which would require lead paint mitigation - 2013 estimate $15,000-25,000
* The bricks on the exterior are starting to crumble - no estimate but fair to say tens of thousands
* A choir loft railing needs to be installed - 2014 estimate $3,500-$5,000
* The Reconciliation booth needs to be enlarged - 2015 estimate $5,000-$6,000
* The heating and cooling systems are at the end of their useful lives - estimate to replace each A/C unit $18,000 - $25,000 and heating unit $7,500
* Limited seating capacity for weddings and funerals, must limit attendance at First Communion, and hosting Confirmation is not possible
* During renovation of an old property additional issues are likely to emerge

Rectory: Built in the early 1900s

* This building is deteriorating and is unsafe
* The entire exterior needs repainting, during which rot is likely to be discovered and need to be replaced - $10,000-$20,000
* The roof will need to be replaced within 5-10 years - no estimate
* The A/C units are at the end of their useful lives - $12,000-$15,000 each
* One of the heating units is failing - $7,500
* There are structural concerns with the floors on both levels – the floors are sagging and there are holes in several places
* Plaster needs to be repaired and replaced in several areas
* The back stairwell is small and steep and needs to be replaced
* Plumbing and fixtures in all bathrooms and in the kitchen need to be replaced

Concrete walks and steps on these properties are deteriorating and need to be repaired. The church and rectory are not energy efficient. The cost for heat only for both buildings each month is more than the cost for both heat and electricity at the parish center. The extensive maintenance, repairs, and upgrades to these buildings could conservatively cost $250,000 based on current out of date estimates, knowing that in all likelihood it would be significantly higher.

The Director of Buildings and Properties agreed with us that the future is not at Main Street. He recommended selling the church and rectory and use the money to invest in the parish center property.

The director suggested that rather than seeking to refurbish the hall space, we should add an addition that would be the worship space. He encouraged us to move as quickly as possible to take advantage of the current real estate market. The committee agrees with this assessment.

Although this is the recommendation of the diocese and the committee, this means nothing in the big picture without you. Because the power to make this decision does not rest with this committee or with the diocese. The power rests with you the parishioners and what you are or are not willing to support. If you are not willing to support this recommendation, you will have to ask yourself if you are willing to live with the impact it will have on the viability of Sacred Heart to continue as a parish.

**Mark Miller:**

*Personal Thoughts About the Parish:*

I am a new member of the Future Committee. I gladly joined because I have a deep love for this parish and want very much to see it continue. Like many others in our parish, I love our little church. I have so many strong and fond memories – bringing our daughters to be baptized, watching proudly as they made their First Communion (and wondering where the time went!), serving as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, taking Holy Communion to people in their homes and spending time with them, and getting to know fellow parishioners.

It can be difficult to think about transitioning to the Sprenkle Road property. But isn’t a parish more than buildings, no matter how beloved they are? We are the parish – the people in this room and those watching us now. This parish is filled with people who dedicate so much time and energy into serving the Lord through the work of our parish.

We live in a growing community and need to be able accommodate new parishioners into the church.  By doing this, we share our beautiful faith while making the parish sustainable.

As I said, I am new to the Future Committee. But I see the dedication that the members have to help our parish thrive. I am confident that we will have a sacred church of which we can all be proud. I hope you will share in that confidence and keep an open mind and heart for doing what is best for Sacred Heart Parish.

**Deacon Tom:**

*Importance of Our Parish:*

First, I would like to say I am excited that Bishop Gainer has allowed us to continue the process of exploring the future of our Sacred Heart Parish. He must see our parishioners as supportive and involved in the parish and the surrounding community and that we have grown remarkably since our beginning in 1903. This should give us confidence that the bishop sees the importance of Sacred Heart parish and its continued work in the Spring Grove area.

I recently sold my house in Ohio that I and my family built with our own hands. I sold it because the Lord has called me to serve you here at Sacred Heart. My heart was open to His call to serve here but it was hard to accept the loss of the house, as I raised my family in that house. So, I understand Mark’s stories about the importance of the church and all your important events that happened there. But change comes to everyone as life continues and the Church of Sacred Heart is not tied just to an old building, just as my family was not tied to a building. Families grow and things must change, and Sacred Heart is truly a family. I will do all I can to help this family continue and help it expand its work within our community so that we can touch people both in spiritual and worldly ways. The Spring Grove Community needs Sacred Heart to stay viable and involved.

Father Michael and I are excited and energized to be part of the effort to ensure the viability and sustainability of Sacred Heart Parish. We hope you are, and we hope you will be willing to help us in moving forward.

**Father Michael:**

*Pastor’s Comments:*

Father Michael shared from his heart thoughts regarding Sacred Heart and our Future.

**Charlie:**

*Next Steps:*

The Committee concurs with the Diocesan Director of Buildings and Properties:

* That with everything considered from the beginning of this process, there is no ability to meet the needs of the parish today (or to hopefully grow in the future) with the Main Street property
* There is without question, no possibility of growing as a parish at Main Street
* It is not practical to maintain the Main Street property
* It is absolutely necessary to take the hard step of selling the church and rectory
* We need to begin that process as soon as possible so we can secure the future of Sacred Heart Parish

The Parish Future Committee continues to meet and work on the various components of the Feasibility Study as required by the diocese. We will provide periodic updates of our progress. This is going to be a process which will take time and energy. Please keep our parish in your prayers as we look to continue to see how best to minister to our parish and community at large. We look forward to a beautiful future and a beautiful Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**Questions: (and answers)**

**Questions from 3/14/21 Parish Town Hall Meeting**

Tom Grimaldi - Will there be a fund/campaign?

Yes, a Capital Campaign, Looking into companies that handle these projects. We can only do one capital campaign so we must look to raise enough funds to cover all aspects of any project we propose.

Cecile Fetters - When will Future Committee put the property up for sale?

Based on Feasibility Study and the Parish as a whole, we will decide the next step. The Future Committee has not power to make this decision on their own. Can only make recommendations based on feedback received from parishioners in survey.

Diane Olsen – Will we be moving the organ?

Yes-we need to look into storing the organ until a new worship space is created.

Karen Langford - Any idea of cost of a new building?

It is part of the feasibility study. We do not have a cost or range currently.

Dave Fetters – Will we have time for organ and speaker moving?

Yes – we will look into everything existing at the church, what needs stored and if it makes sense to store. If and when we reach this point care will be taken to store/move items from the church on Main Street.

John Rovka – Is this a property sale or building sale?

We will look to sell the building.

Terry Reichard – Where will Father stay when and if Main St. is sold?

We will find temporary housing for him.

Carla Kolasa – Is Church a historical building?

It was found that the plaque on the church is false and it is not listed on a historical record

Cecile Fetters-

2018 Real estate market value was done for the Concept Study, a New official appraisal is needed.

2018 figures Rectory between $124,000-$134,000; church $145,000 - $155,000. Total Value, $269,000-289,000.

Brian Weaver – Was there a plan for a church on the center grounds originally?

Yes, a drawing, no plans. We have no restrictions on that, however.

Cecile Fetters – Will we be allowed to use the church when Covid restrictions lift?

Recommendation to sell per Diocese Building and Maintenance Director as soon as possible. Estimated Value $269,000 - $289,000 for both properties. We have to finish the feasibility study. In order to have on the high cost of heating and cooling the church we currently do not have plans to return to the church when COVID restrictions lift. The long term determination of use of church will be based on survey results from parishioners.

Carla Kolasa – What protects the sale money from being used on other projects?

Diocese puts money in a specific fund. The money will be placed in our Building and Maintenance fund and earmarked for upkeep and expansion of Sprenkle Road property.

PC Status

Building & Management stated PC was in very good shape. Work that would be needed to bring building up to ADA code would not in their opinion be cost prohibitive.

Jim Hobday – What stopping form putting property on the market?

We need to get the feasibility study done, need the Parish support. Based on Dioceses and Future Committee findings and will Sacred Heart back the move. We would have to work with diocese to put the property on the market and have a relocation plan for Father Letteer.

Terry Reichard – How much property do we have at Sprenkle Road?

10 Acres

Karen Langford – Is there money? Will the diocese loan?

Fr. Letteer Answered, Parish needs to raise 50% through a Capital Campaign. We don’t have the #’s yet. We do work with the diocese for a loan. More we raise, less the loan is. More support, more option, need to work as a Parish

Gen Reed – When will we get the Survey?

The Future Committee is meeting Monday March 15, 2021. We’d like a survey out within 1 month. Direct questionnaire for all Parishioners.