

## Nativity Campus

Dear Friends,

It was almost three years ago, April 3, 2016, when we celebrated the final regularly scheduled Mass at Nativity Church. That summer, the merger of Nativity and Holy Rosary Parishes was completed. Over the ensuing years, ministries were transitioned to the Holy Rosary Campus as parish leadership continued to evaluate the viability of our two campus parish.

Last year at this time, the Parish Council and Finance Commission determined that it was no longer financially prudent to continue to maintain the Nativity Campus. Only a few ministries remained there and expenditures for the cost of urgent repairs would never render a return to the parish. Last summer, Holy Rosary petitioned and was granted permission from Bishop Siegel to relegate Nativity Church for secular but not sacred use. This paved the way for us to engage the services of a realtor and place the property on the market.

By October of 2018, we had three groups actively pursuing the property. In late November, we invited them to make their best and final offer for the Nativity Campus. Boeke Road Baptist Church emerged as the strongest bidder and this led to a contract with contingencies that needed to be cleared by both parties over a 45 day period. On our part, we needed final approval from Bishop Siegel to sell the property. This he granted after review and input from a number of diocesan councils through a canonical process of alienation.

On January 31, 2019, Holy Rosary concluded the transfer of the Nativity Campus to Boeke Road Baptist Church. Boeke Road Baptist Church has had a footprint in south east Evansville for over 45 year and was in need of a larger campus. The Nativity site was perfect for their needs and the congregation went through a remarkable discernment process that led to approval by the entire membership to make the move. They are very excited about continuing their ministry on Pollack Avenue.

The sale of the Nativity Campus will bring immediate financial relief to our parish in savings to our operating budget of almost \$1,500 per week. Additionally, the proceeds from the sale, just short of \$800,000, make possible the completion of our current construction project and repayment of bridge loans (taken to cover cost of construction while we complete collections of pledges for the diocesan capital campaign).

We have two significant ministries, The Clothes Closet & The Food Pantry, that still need a home in the wake of this transition. We are actively exploring possible options and are confident that these ministries will be taken up at a new site in the near future.

Nativity was the faith home for three generations of Catholics and a blessing for Christ's Church. Since the merger, her ministry has transitioned back to where she began as an off shoot of Holy Rosary (and Christ the King). She served her people well and now we complete the circle of this new chapter begun in the summer of 2016 as our two parishes merged. I pray that our Christian brothers and sisters from Boeke Road Baptist Church will enjoy a blessed future as they continue the work of Christ at the former Nativity Campus.

Christ's peace,

Fr. Bernie Etienne