



## **Project 750 Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: What is wrong with what we have now?**

When the parish purchased the former Baptist Church in 1982 to become our Ministry Center, there were 1,800 registered families. Today there are over 3,500 families, and that number swells in the winter months. As our parish has grown, so have our needs. All three buildings suffer from such things as poor air-conditioning, mildew, too few bathrooms, a lack of handicapped accessibility, and constant need of repairs. Our Youth Center, currently in the third building, has also been outgrown, is poorly configured, and smells of mildew. It has only one bathroom to serve both girls and boys.

### **Q: Why not just renovate?**

As we discovered when we planned the new church, renovation can be more costly than starting from scratch. The city will require that everything be brought “up to code” with new building standards and requirements. In the end, we will still have old, inefficient buildings that do not meet our needs.

### **Q: Why do you want to tear down the parish office building? It is so charming!**

Built to be a convent, our parish office is not well designed for its current use. It is not large enough to hold all staff members under one roof, so employees are spread throughout three buildings creating inefficiency. Having all staff under one roof will drastically help with communication. It will, in turn, be a positive experience for visitors, who often must wander through several buildings to find the staff person they are seeking. In addition, the idea to combine everything in one multi-level building will allow us to increase parking spaces that are sorely needed.

### **Q: What will the new building include?**

The proposed new building will be an inviting Center that represents the Saint William community and will attract people to our parish. Plans include the following:

- ❖ Additional classrooms for faith formation;
- ❖ A prayer/meditation room;
- ❖ A Youth Center that will accommodate our growing youth and young adult groups;
- ❖ An inviting and comfortable lecture theater;
- ❖ Efficient air-conditioning and mold-free rooms;
- ❖ State of the art technology;
- ❖ Handicapped accessibility;
- ❖ A kitchen to serve the various ministries and organizations;
- ❖ Gathering space for the Knights of Columbus, CCW, and other groups;
- ❖ A comfortable “living room” for small faith sharing groups and meetings;
- ❖ Adequate bathrooms; and,
- ❖ Storage for offices, classrooms and organizations.

### **Q: How did you determine what was needed?**

A: Over the past year, ministry leaders and parish organizations came together to discern our present and future needs, and from this we formed a building committee to move forward. We discussed space, technology, comfort, parking, safety, furniture and many other issues.

## **Project 750 – FAQ (Continued)**

### **Q: What will the general design be like?**

A: The plan is to build one building that will be two stories high, with the first floor elevated above parking in order to provide for the maximum amount of parking beneath. There will be stairs and an elevator to reach the upper levels.

### **Q: How large will the building be?**

A: Currently, our buildings total approximately 22,000 Sq.Ft. The new building is anticipated to be approximately 40,000 Sq.Ft. in size.

### **Q: Who designed the concept for the new building?**

A: The concept design came from a well-known architect named Eugene (Gene) Aubry, who has designed many prestigious buildings throughout the country including Naples Philharmonic (now Artis-Naples) and the Sarasota Library. Gene was with the fifth largest architect firm in the US, located in Huston, with 250 architects working under him. He is now retired, however he generously agreed to help us as a favor to his longtime friend, Myra Daniels. Gene sat through many listening sessions to hear about what we hope to achieve with this new building bearing in mind that we have limited resources.

### **Q: Will Gene Aubry design the interior of the building as well?**

A: Gene will work with a local architectural firm, which will work on the interior design of the building. The local firm must be approved by the Diocese.

### **Q: Has the Diocese approved the project?**

A: The Diocese has given us permission to move forward with the plans.

### **Q: What is the timeline?**

A: We will begin fundraising for the project in the Fall, and once we have collected 80% of the building funds needed, we will begin construction.

### **Q: How much will the building cost?**

A: Until we have the design completed by the architect, we will not know the projected costs. We will have this answer before we begin fundraising in the Fall.

### **Q: Will money given to support this project be assessed by the Diocese?**

A: We will have a three-year exemption on any money donated for the building project. If we begin fundraising in the Fall, we will have three years to collect money before any assessment occurs.

