

Exploratory Committee News

As proposed at the Parish Annual Meeting in October, an Exploratory Committee was formed in December to implement the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee regarding facilities. Three of the primary five recommendations of the Long Range Planning Process involved coming together around one table in one parish site. **The Exploratory Committee is indeed exploring our parish options**, whether we utilize one, two or three existing sites OR build a new parish site. **It is very important to realize no decision has been made. The Exploratory Committee is doing the research necessary to make recommendations to the parish which will be presented for discussion and input in a series of “town hall meetings” this summer.** Beginning with the first meeting and continuing throughout the ensuing meetings, transparency of the Exploratory Committee’s activities to the entire parish has been emphasized. As a result, minutes from each of the committee’s meetings, minutes from the Parish Annual Meeting, the Parish Long Range Plan, and the Parish Facilities Report are all on the parish website or available upon request from the parish office.

The members of the Exploratory Committee are **Fr. Dennis Bergsbaken, Russ Aerts, Dick Geurts, Sr. Celine Goessl, Caroline Green, Julie Rohan, Rick Roundy, Matt VanEffen, and Karla Voss.**

Exploratory Committee meeting on January 17th. Sr. Ann Rehrauer from the Green Bay Diocese gave a PowerPoint presentation on “*What to Think About*, what to look for in planning a church or visiting and evaluating a church building”. The presentation was very enlightening as to the significance of the many components of our worship spaces. All agreed that as we tour our churches and those of our neighbors in the Diocese, the committee will be looking with “a new set of eyes”.

Exploratory Committee meeting on February 6th. The group discussed their impressions of Sr. Ann Rehrauer’s presentation at the January 17th meeting. The members then discussed a plan of action to accomplish the goal of presenting recommendations to the St. Clare parishioners this coming summer. The committee decided to tour newer constructed churches as well as remodeled/reconfigured worship spaces in the diocese with the first tour scheduled for February 18th. Although worship space is a priority in the study, the committee will also be exploring future education and administrative space needs balancing this with realistic financial considerations.

Exploratory Committee meeting on February 18th. The committee toured the Holy Family Church, offices, kitchen and social hall facilities at Brillion. Among items discussed was the Holy Family merger of 4 parishes and how that related to building a new church. After the tour the committee discussed its mission and which other parishes we need to visit. It was suggested we visit remodeled, as well as new church buildings.

Exploratory Committee meeting on March 6th. Committee members toured Prince of Peace Parish facilities and St. John the Baptist Parish’s new church. Committee members also discussed information needed to integrate our St. Clare Parish facility needs within our existing structure(s) versus building a new site.

Exploratory Committee meeting on March 21st. The committee discussed Parish statistics including; future availability of priests, current Mass attendance, meeting and seating capacity of each of our current church sites, acreage at each site, and financial statistics (revenue & expenses) per site. A discussion of the “pros” and “cons” of each of our existing sites followed. Additional questions were developed for the other parishes we visited.