



Feasibility Study Results

St. Patrick's Church of Elkhorn, NE

"Most parishes have a sense of dedication, but the spirit is much more alive and fresh at St. Patrick's. There is a profound and deeply seated sense of dedication provided the church proceeds to address the greatest needs of the parish. Even though many parishioners have been in the parish for less than four years, most regard it as their spiritual home for years to come. There is no transient feeling and many have expressed a collective sigh of relief that they have found their church." (Cosgriff Company report, Section E-1)

As most of you know, this past summer, with the approval of the Parish Pastoral Council, St. Patrick's hired the Cosgriff Company to direct a study to determine the feasibility of a future capital campaign. The study was conducted in two parts, personal interviews with a cross-section of parishioners and a survey mailed to all other parishioners. The results were presented to the Development Committee, Finance Committee and Parish Pastoral Council at the end of September.

These three committees have worked the past 2½ months, using the results to develop a plan of action. While some results were shared in October, it may be helpful to share more of the amazingly positive information that surface from you, the people of St. Patrick's.

Some highlights:

What do you consider to be the three strongest attributes of St. Patrick's Catholic Church?

The top three answers were the same from both the survey and interviews: 1) The Priests, 2) The family-like, friendly, welcoming atmosphere of the parish and its people, and 3) The School. *"It is quite clear that the parish is, for the most part fulfilling its need for a sense of community and spiritual leadership."* (Cosgriff Company report, Section D-3)

What, if any, do you consider to be the Parish's three weakest points (what can be improved upon)?

The top three answers from the interviews were: 1) Nothing at all, 2) Frustration at not having the proposed construction started or in-progress at present, 3) Frustration at not being able to see the parish better financially support the church through weekly giving. *"Quite outstanding is the largest response to this question....This is a **significantly large number for any survey** to feel the existing parish is operating without the need for change....Many respondents in the interviews thought that if a well communicated and orchestrated campaign were executed though, that enough capital may be raised to begin one of the expansion plans...."* (Cosgriff Company report, Section C-4)

The top three answers from the surveys were: 1) Not having the church/school building built now and the frustration of not having enough space for parishioners and/or students, 2) Frustration at not being able to see the parish better financially support the church through weekly giving, 3) Adequate parking at peak church usage. *The fact that the responses in this category outnumber the next closest question by over 2:1 reveal that the respondents are very passionate about what is needed for their own and their children's needs at church and school."* (Cosgriff Company report, Section D-4)

When rating the urgency to build additional space, answers/percentages were:

Interviewees:

Classrooms, Library, Conference Rooms:

83% Overdue
12% Necessary
5% Not Urgent

Gymnasium:

43% Overdue
52% Necessary
3% Not Urgent
2% Not Necessary

Cafeteria:

34% Overdue
55% Necessary
9% Not Urgent
2% Not Necessary

Renovation of Boland Hall:

19% Overdue,
22% Necessary
49% Not Urgent
10% Not Necessary



Survey Responses:

Classrooms, Library, Conference Rooms:

44% Overdue
36% Necessary
6% Not Urgent,
1% Not Necessary
13% No Answer

Gymnasium:

39% Overdue
34% Necessary
11% Not Urgent
1% Not Necessary
15% No Answer

Cafeteria:

27 % Overdue
38% Necessary
18% Not Urgent
1% Not Necessary
16 % No Answer

Renovation of Boland Hall:

15% Overdue
37% Necessary
32% Not Urgent
3% Not Necessary
13% No Answer



Summary

While specific plans are still being developed, the Parish Pastoral Council has approved the hiring of the Cosgriff Company to address our needs by conducting a capital campaign this spring. This step was recommended by both the Development Committee and Finance Committee of the parish. The study also provided some financial estimates for a future campaign. Those numbers are being used as the Development Committee, Finance Committee & Parish Pastoral Council finalize plans. These groups are working hard to provide the additional space needed, while at the same time seeking to be fiscally responsible. Look for more information, decisions and directions early in the New Year!