

**St. Margaret Mary Parish
Town Hall Meeting
March 22, 2006 @ 7:30pm**

III. Dialogue with Parishioners- Questions and Answers

- QUESTION: I didn't see where the drinking fountains were located on the diagrams.
- ANSWER: The drinking fountains are included. There are two new drinking fountains included in the expansion. On the upper level, one is located adjacent from the plumbing wall for the restroom and new kitchenette. On the lower level one is most likely going to be located next to the mechanical room and the restrooms.

- QUESTION: Are new sprinkler head fixtures part of the proposed project?
- ANSWER: Yes, as a result of updated building codes we will be adding a sprinkler system to the church. The sprinkler heads will be showing, but the rest of the system should be incorporated into the building so there will not be exposed piping. Most of the details will be decided later in the process.

- QUESTION: What is the total square footage of the new addition?
- ANSWER: The upper level is 4700 SF and the lower level is 4246.

- QUESTION: With the addition of the new restrooms and bride room, are you going to reconfigure the existing restroom and crying room area off of the Narthex?
- ANSWER: For the expansion, we have not budgeted for these changes.

- QUESTION: Along with the installation of the sprinkler system in the church, will you also be incorporating new lighting in the church? It seems to make more sense, financially to do both at the same time since you will only have to rent the scaffolding one time, etc.
- ANSWER: Currently, this is not part of the budgeted expansion at this time. We (Building Committee) will take a look at this possibility before construction starts to see if the budget will allow us to do this. It really doesn't make sense to pay twice to erect scaffolding and install piping along the beams.

- QUESTION: What will the annual operating cost be for the new building?
- ANSWER: The cost for the air conditioning, heating, custodial service etc. has not been figured for the new expansion space as of yet. The SF for the new space increases the church SF by about 20%. The finance committee has addressed this and started looking at maintenance costs, but nothing has been finalized. There are a lot of moving parts. In fact, the drawings have gone through about four generations of adjustments and we have had to remove a lot of items that would require greater operational costs.

- QUESTION: In the \$1.6 M for the expansion, is there anything set aside for renovations for existing the existing church or wing?

- ANSWER: Some minor renovations will be done (mostly in house) in the administration and RE facilities (minor demolition). However, no major renovations will be done.
- COMMENT: The RE class size has trended downward so we no longer need additional classrooms. We will maintain the existing count for RE classrooms after the new expansion is completed.
- QUESTION: Are you planning to build into the slope that exists today in order to include windows for the new offices?
- ANSWER: Yes, we are most likely going to create a retaining wall (although not yet determined) to allow for windows in the offices on the lower level.
- QUESTION: Are you going to remove the kitchen we have today?
- ANSWER: No, we are going to keep both, because the new kitchen as part of the expansion is more of a kitchenette.
- QUESTION: Is there a plan for flood control?
- ANSWER: We are in contact with civil engineers to identify flood issues. We already have a small amount of money in the budget for excavation if needed.
- QUESTION: What is the purpose of the fireplace?
- ANSWER: This could be considered an “alternate” element if there is no demand for one. We still have the option to reject this feature before the final plans are approved. The Building Committee felt that it’s important to offer some type of lounge seating area for Parishioners that could be a multi-purpose use.
- QUESTION: If you continue with the design requirement for a fairly large soffit around the exterior of the new expansion- Are you considering some alternative materials that would be maintenance free? Today, what we have requires regular maintenance to keep it looking nice.
- ANSWER: We haven’t yet gotten to that level of detail in our building materials, but we plan to research options and other materials for the soffit.
- QUESTION: What is the plan for the area off of the Narthex? Will the divided rooms be soundproof?
- ANSWER: Yes, we will be using similar “accordion” type dividers as are used in the Parish today. They cost about \$70 SF (not a cheap material), but they will not let a normal voice travel to the next room. A shriek, however, would be heard in the next room.
- QUESTION: The architects on our previous expansion did not spend enough time on the job. There was a rather large punch list and other problems occurred at the end of the expansion. Will your supervision be better than the last team?

- ANSWER: Yes, we hope to be a better team than what you experienced with the architects in the last expansion.
- COMMENT: Self-contained heating and air conditioning will be installed in the new building. Designing the building in zones is more economical. Today, we've bettered our insulation, but we end up making the buildings so air tight that toxic fumes remain in the building. Because of this, we now need to bring in even more clean air from the outside. We will not be replacing the existing heating and cooling system for this project.
- QUESTION: Related to the discussion about the room dividers- How do you subdivide the room if there is only one primary entrance to the upper level? It seems that people would have to walk through another meeting to get out of the building.
- ANSWER: We originally had a hallway planned, but it was a lot of wasted space. We are tossing around possible changes with the drawings.
- COMMENT: ASCA is paying the interest on the school loan and SMMP is covering the rest.
- COMMENT: The \$87,000 is what we owe towards the school- the capital campaign did not cover all of the expenses that SMMP is obligated to pay every year for ASCA so we have to come up with additional money.