



St. Joseph's Catholic Community

Generations of Faith Our Promise for the Future

"We plan for generations we will never know...and plant trees under whose shade we will never sit."

Glenmary Sisters

Sixty years ago our Catholic community built our current school to be a part of our parish community life. As we look toward the future, we now have the chance to continue that vision with new educational space at the church site, designed to serve the needs of not only our children, but all of us.

Our Catholic faith calls us to serve the youngest to the oldest. As servants we have joined together and reduced the debt on our church. In addition, we have specific plans to pay off the church debt before proceeding with the future building project. Now we are in the position to begin planning the education space on our campus. Following is information on our current status and next steps.

We will be hosting a Town Hall meeting, Wednesday, June 4, at 7:00 p.m.

*Please mark this on your calendar and plan to join us
for this exciting planning phase of our new educational space.*

We have listened to the concerns raised in our October 2006 Town Hall Meetings through the feasibility study and subsequent meetings. With the help of many dedicated volunteers, those concerns have been addressed in the following ways:

- The debt on our new church building project has been substantially reduced from \$1.1 million in October of 2006 to approximately \$580,000.
- We invited three firms to carefully recheck all the facts and cost estimates for improving the existing school. We now believe that it would not be financially responsible to spend \$3,000,000+ on improving a 54-year old school building. Also, that option would eliminate our ability to vacate the original site.
- The cost of the proposed new Education Center building plan has been reduced from previous construction cost estimates. The new plan demonstrates a more cost-effective use of the classrooms in the lower level of the church and strategies are in place to share as many spaces with current and future programs as possible.
- Concerns have been addressed with respect to pastoral housing which would give us the flexibility to sell the old church, school, and rectory property.

The Diocese of Duluth Presbyteral Council has given our parish permission to move forward with preliminary planning for a capital campaign. With a successful campaign, we can then go to the Diocese for permission to build the new Education Center. Hal Johnson and Associates (HJA) have been retained by the parish to provide counsel and direction through the process that will help us determine affordability. They have guided our parish through two feasibility studies and two successful capital campaigns.

The Town Hall Presentation/Dialogue meeting on **Wednesday evening, June 4, at 7:00 p.m. in our Social Hall** will address the planning process including: concerns raised by parishioners, timeline, financial position, revised Education Center plan and costs, capital campaign overview, leadership, as well as ample time for discussion and questions.

We recognize the importance of continuing to deliver the ministries and services that you have come to expect, balanced with the need to responsibly plan for our future. The time has come to unite and create a parish community that will continue our promise of Catholic Education. The possibilities are endless for our entire parish with the inclusion of a media center, library, gymnasium, and additional classroom space at our church home...our faith community.

The Town Hall Meeting will be an outstanding opportunity to come, listen, learn and share. Thank you!

Father Jerry Weiss
Pastor

Jim Hoolihan
Trustee

Sue Mattson
Trustee