

St. Joseph Parish News

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COMMITTEES ANSWER FAQs ON PLANS

Editor's Note – The following information has been prepared by the Steering Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee to provide as much information as possible about the status of *Forward in Faith ... A Plan for Our Future*.

Overall project

How was the site selected?

A number of sites were investigated by a task force created by the Steering Committee with the assistance of a real estate professional. The site that we have an option on was chosen with the belief that it best met the needs of the parish and school. The primary criteria utilized consisted of finding a strategic location for current needs and future growth of the parish and school, budget considerations, trying to locate the parish to serve both Clarke and Oconee counties, and finding a tract of land which would be large enough to ensure that we could control further development of property around the church and school. The land will only be purchased when a complete evaluation looking into all aspects of its suitability is finished.

When will the move begin?

The move will be determined by the pace of construction. Construction will begin once we have the financial results of the pledge drive and knowledge of the amount of money expected from the sale of the existing church and school site.

What will move first?

Several scenarios are possible and it is still too early to determine what part of the project will be done first. An overall plan is being developed by the Architectural Task Force and the Steering committee and will be proposed to the Parish and School families when ready.

Over what period of time will the move occur?

This will be determined again by the pace of construction but it is reasonable to believe the construction project will take at least two years to fully complete. The number of phases in the project will depend on the amount of money we are able to raise in the Pledge Drive and the sale of the current site. The proposed phasing will be presented to the Parish and School families

Who will develop the new site?

The Architectural Task Force has recommended that the firm of Hussey, Gay, Bell, and De Young of Gainesville be retained.

What will the new church look like? How big will it be?

It is too early to have an answer to this question. All the facilities will be designed around the detailed needs assessment that has been performed over the past 2 years with the updates obtained from interviews with the current staff of the Parish and School. The plans will of course depend on the monies generated from the Capital

Campaign and the sale of the existing property. The Parish membership will be associated with any decision making process in this matter

What will the new school look like? How many students will it be able to accommodate?

Representatives from the school will be included in all decisions related to the construction project. The plans will depend on the monies generated from the Capital Campaign and the sales of the existing property. The School staff and families will be associated with any decision making process in this matter

What other facilities will be available?

It is too soon to tell. The plan will address as much as possible all the needs expressed.

The Capital Campaign itself

When will we start?

The Planning Study has begun. Interviews are being conducted by Laura Hunter and a parish wide survey has been mailed. This study effort will run for 4 to 5 weeks. The results of this planning phase will be presented, analyzed and the actual pledge campaign drive will begin shortly thereafter (probably late March 2006). The Planning Study is a critical component of the capital campaign as it will allow our consultants and volun-

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Parish St. Patrick's Day Party! 7 p.m., March 18, in the Parish Hall.

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teer committees to gather information from all members of our Community that will help ensure the success of our campaign.

What is the expected level of giving?

We would like to see 100% participation in the campaign by the parish with each parish member and family as well as school families prayerfully considering a sacrificial commitment of as much as they are able to give. All gifts will be welcome whether large or small as both are important to the overall success of the campaign. Each parish member is asked to deeply reflect on the importance of this endeavor to Saint Joseph's both now and well into the future as they determine their level of giving, and how they can best support it. We are asked to return in time, treasure and talent to the best of our abilities. We are only giving in return a small part of God's blessings that we have received.

How will I pay? Over what period?

It is anticipated that pledges will be redeemed over a three year period. Options on the timing of the pledge redemptions will be given to the donor (monthly, quarterly, annually, lump sum, or other rhythm as necessary etc.). We should have the ability to debit credit cards and debit cards as well as receive cash payments. We will have advisers available to steer those parish members who may choose to donate stocks and other financial securities to the appropriate professionals

How will the Capital Campaign be conducted?

Our campaign will be coordinated by

professional specialized consultants that we will engage. We will have a campaign director from their organization who will help guide and coordinate the efforts of the many volunteers who will be required to conduct the campaign. The campaign will consist of personal meetings and group receptions. Our goal is to communicate with all parishioners and School families on a level that is most comfortable for them while accommodating the needs of the campaign.

What is the purpose of the Planning study?

The Planning Study is designed to gather information that will help the campaign be successful and to provide projected data to the volunteer committees who are responsible for budgeting, building, and furnishing our new church and school. The Planning Study is also designed to identify and attract volunteers for the pledge drive. We encourage all parish and school members to get involved from the beginning of the fund raising project. Without the commitment of the parish and school, we will not achieve our goals.

How were the interviewed families or individuals selected?

The selections were made by taking a cross section of the database of church and school members to get a representative sample of data to be able to assess our Capital Campaign target. While time would not permit interviewing every parish member, every effort will be made to accommodate non selected parish and school members who wish to be interviewed. In addition a confidential parish wide survey is being conducted.

What will the process be by which

my pledge is asked for?

From April through June, a number of opportunities will be presented for parish and school members to get information about the campaign and to complete pledge cards. Receptions and other events will be held, pledge information will be available at masses, and mailings will be sent with information on how to pledge.

How will I make my pledge?

A pledge card will be completed and submitted to a designated location where it will be confidentially reviewed and entered into the campaign database.

Can I designate X% of my pledge for the church construction and Y% for the school?

Absolutely. Your pledge will be graciously accepted and your intentions will be honored.

Can my pledge be paid off by a bequest in my will?

Yes. We will have advisers available to assist in this. It should be noted though, that the cash requirements of the construction project will be near term and while a bequest in a will can certainly be accepted, the need for funds will most likely precede the bequest.

Will my contribution remain confidential?

Absolutely. While it is necessary for processing purposes for a small select group of individuals to see what was pledged (mostly the same that see the weekly offertory), this group will be very small and above reproach. Just as your offertory is kept strictly confi-

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NOTE: Deadline for March Parish News is Friday, March 10.

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dential, so will your pledge

How will my contribution be recognized?

Firstly we will always respect the wish of any donor to keep his or her name confidential. Recognition however is an important part of showing the breadth of the community involvement in this project (for this generation and the next one). We are currently evaluating different ways of doing this including naming opportunities (for buildings or rooms or other equipment) and plaques. We will make these proposals when we progress in our Pledge Drive. In the meantime, the Planning phase will be an good time to let us know if you have any preference in this area.

Why are we using a consultant for the Capital Campaign?

We chose to hire a fund raising consultant company to take advantage of their extensive experience and success in running capital campaigns. We feel very strongly that this campaign is critical to the future of the parish and school and that professional guidance will provide a better foundation for a successful drive. Based on this determination, we interviewed a number of parishes in the Archdiocese and verified that many of the campaigns that did achieve their goals did use a consultant in their effort. Guidance in Giving rose to the top of the fund raising companies interviewed. They specialize in fund/capital campaigns for Catholic churches and have a long track record of success across the country.

How did we choose them?

We chose GIG from an interview process in which two finalists were selected and asked to submit propos-

als. These proposals were evaluated by the Capital Campaign Committee which submitted their recommendation for GIG to the Steering Committee, Father David and the Archdiocese. The recommendation of GIG was approved and GIG was engaged and a contract signed for the Planning Phase. We will shortly be making a recommendation for the consultant to be retained for the Pledge Drive.

The budget

What is the overall budget?

The budget will ultimately be guided by the success of the Capital Campaign and the monies generated from the sale of the existing property. The cost of the project will be determined based on what the parish and school need. If in the event the pledge drive and sale of existing property fail to generate enough money to secure the needs of the parish and school, taking on debt will be strongly considered. A second Phase Capital Campaign will then be necessary. This is not an uncommon situation on many parishes.

What part will be paid for by the Pledge Drive?

This is very hard to determine at this point but it is anticipated that the parish and school will be able to raise conservatively \$3 million.

What part will be paid for by the sale of the current site?

This is very hard to determine at this point, but as this is an extremely valuable asset, it will be strongly marketed and every effort made to derive as much value as possible.

What is the role of the Archdiocese?

The Archdiocese must approve all of our plans and will provide any assistance we need for financing, construction, legal, or any other need we may have. The Archdiocese remains the legal owner of the lands and buildings. They are also providing the professional project management that such an endeavor requires.

Where will we have services during construction if present property sold?

This will be factored into the overall project planning that the Architectural group and the Steering Committee are developing and will be presented to the Parish and School families.

Will parishioners have a voice in church accommodations (e.g. cry room, chapel,)?

The Steering Committee has appointed an Architectural Task force to develop plans for the church and school. Participation in this group or in any group working on this project is strongly invited. In keeping with the process conducted to date, all plans will be presented to the Parish and School families as well as the staff and time allocated for input. A format for this will be devised.

What features of the present church will be incorporated into the new church (stained glass windows, etc.)?

The Architectural Task Force will take all of these type of existing elements into account and make appropriate recommendations to the Steering Committee who will communicate with the parish and school.

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The School

The property will be developed in order to accommodate the children and their academic and school year timing needs. As part of the school, it is projected that a multi purpose building will be built to be used as a gym for the school and a base of operations and masses for the parish while the church is under construction. The school is an integral part of the parish and will be included in both the planning of the new parish campus as well as the fund raising. As the sale of the existing church and school property will provide the bulk of the funds to build a new structure, a great deal of coordination will be required between the church and school in the new construction, but every effort will be made to accommodate the needs of both in the transition

Hispanic community

The Hispanic Community is an extremely important part of our St Joseph community. We will be presenting all communications in both English and Spanish and will be seeking volunteers from the Hispanic Community to help lead the campaign. We will also be developing specific opportunities where necessary for close involvement of our Hispanic brothers and sisters in this project. This must be the effort and the work of all.

The current site

What will happen to the current site?

It is anticipated that it will be sold at fair market price to provide funds for the new church and school. In doing so we remain conscious of our responsibilities to the Athens Community and the neighborhood in which we have spent so many years.

What will be built in its place?

It is impossible to anticipate this. The Steering Committee will make every effort to keep our Prince Avenue neighbors informed. This effort has already been initiated

What will happen to the current church?

It is too early to provide any information in this matter

Communication

The Steering Committee is closely liaising with our standing Communications Committee that does such an excellent job with our Bulletins and Web Site. The Communication committee will be keeping the parish and school informed of events surrounding the entire undertaking as well as structuring accurate information which will be presented to the Athens community at large.

Knights' Lenten Suppers Return

The Knights of Columbus resumes serving Lenten Suppers on Friday, March 3, 2006, and will continue to do so during Lent (except for Good Friday) from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Parishioners can participate in the Friday Adoration, have a delicious Lenten Supper, and attend the Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 per family.

Info: www.kofc6514.org.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated nationally from January 29th through February 4th. The theme this year for Catholic Schools Week is "Character. Compassion. Values", which is especially relevant in these challenging times. During this week, the academic achievements combined with the spiritual benefits of Catholic education are celebrated. Also during Catholic Schools Week, the teachers as well as the students are celebrated. Saint Joseph School celebrated the week by holding an "Open House Day", "Student Appreciation Day" and celebrating "Teacher Appreciation Day" with a Mass and luncheon for the teachers. In addition, the 8th Grade students

attended the Archdiocesan Catholic School Week Mass held at St. Peter Chanel Church in Roswell; the Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Gregory. The 8th grade teachers, Mrs. Anne Vencill and Mr. Joe LeBlanc, and our Principal, Mrs. Barbara Bankston, attended the Mass with the students.

The week concluded with special recognition of the years of service and teaching anniversaries of the following teachers:

Mrs. Johannah Siragusa - 5 year anniversary recognition; Mrs. Cathy Auslander - 10 year anniversary recognition and Mrs. Frances Chapman - 20 year anniversary recognition.

Parish St. Patrick's Day Party! 7 p.m., March 18, in the Parish Hall.