

On September 30<sup>th</sup> St. Cecilia Pastoral Council hosted a Townhall Meeting and Ministry Fair for parishioners. Over the next few weeks we will share the questions and responses from the evening.

### PASTORAL COUNCIL TOWNHALL MEETING

- Fr. Bao called the Townhall Meeting to order at 6:28 with prayer and a song.
- Fr. Bao shared an update from Bishop Vann regarding the crisis in the church and what is happening in our Diocese. A new flier update, regarding this topic from Bishop Vann, has been posted on the Church website. Special prayer services to fight this evil and strengthen the clergy. Father led attendees in the prayer of St. Michael the Archangel.
- **Deacon Bill Weeks** served as moderator for the evening. He explained the question process and asked panelists to introduce themselves, the following individuals participated:

Father Bao Thai

Father Nicolaus Thai

Evelyn Carrasco – Spanish Faith Formation

Deacon Dong Ngo

Sister Catherine Nguyen – Confirmation/Faith Formation

Mary Alvarado – Principal of St. Cecilia School

Aric Gless – Architect for the new building project

Bill and Sandie Guard - Capital Campaign

Scott Cwiertny – Capital Campaign

Elizabeth Cwiertny – Capital Campaign

Tony Macias – Children’s Faith Formation (English)

Mike Zinn – Pastoral Council

- **Questions:**  
**In bulletin each week their asking for people to donate and volunteer – is the bulletin being updated weekly regarding the numbers and amounts?**

Fr. Bao responded: Updates are usually prepared at the beginning of each month. Even though he is asking a dollar a day – any amount is greatly appreciated – more or less. Giving should be done from your heart. The amount that you give is appreciated and is the appropriate amount for you.

#### **When will the building review with the City of Tustin be taking place?**

Aric Gless responded: Project has been accepted by the City of Tustin and will be going to the Planning Commission for approval. The plans have already gone through several rounds. We are anticipating full approval. Once approval is recommended there is a thirty-day notice of a meeting for approval of the project. At this time, we would like the parish community to be in attendance. (Possible Tuesday, Oct. 23, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers). Once approved at this meeting, formal drawings are rendered and taken for approval.

**When will ground breaking for the new building take place? (Aric Gless continued)**

Pending approval of the building, actual ground breaking may occur between the Spring and Summer, if all monies have been raised. Building and Fundraising Committees will meet continuously throughout the process. Fr. Bao and Deacon Bill will continue monthly updates on the amount of donations received.

**How are the donations coming along?**

Deacon Bill responded:

\$1.2 million precampaign funds are in the Building Fund account drawing interest. Capital work - \$3.1 million in pledges to be fulfilled during the three years

\$400,000 – not realized during the three years of campaign

All of this when fulfilled will be \$4.6 million – we need \$7 million

\$840,000 currently fulfilled, these will be added to our Building Fund

The Diocese requires 75% of funds to be available for building to begin – we need \$3,000,000 for this to happen. By next summer we should meet this amount. Ask everyone to donate whatever they can, no matter how small. Everything counts to realize the dream.

**Have contractors been preapproved?**

Eric Gless responded: Contractors still need to be approved. Diocese requires at least three bids on each phase of the project.

**School has changed over the years. But building still does not have the warm environment that may be needed. Perhaps a mural to help the esthetic environment.**

Mary Alvarado responded: Improvements are guided by needs and monies available. Unfortunately, a mural will not be able to be done at this time. Currently there are two large projects pending – putting a new roof on the school and replacing air conditioning compressors which are beginning to become problematic. These two projects will happen first before a beautification project can take place.

**Is the Tabernacle going to be moved to the center of the Altar?**

Fr, Bao responded: Bishop Vann wishes the Tabernacle to be relocated back to the center of the Altar, dependent on the feasibility of the move. For our church there are two obstacles. First, if the tabernacle was relocated the decrease in the space between the altar and the wall would cause us to have to move the altar forward. Second, is the cost to move the tabernacle.

One possibility is to include the building of a twenty-four-hour Adoration Chapel on the green area when the modular buildings were previously located. This could possibly be included in the capital campaign.

## **TOWN HALL PART TWO**

### **Question regarding the timeline of the building process and how can parishioners show support of this process?**

Eric Gless responded: We are pretty sure the process will be approved. City must listen to anyone who poses a concern or questions the process. When time for final meeting with City Council parishioners will be notified and invited to attend.

### **When making phone calls regarding the capital campaign, what should callers focus on?**

Bill Guard responded: When making phone calls, callers should ask people to donate what they are comfortable with giving, no matter what that amount may be.

Individuals interested in giving larger donations want to see the ground breaking occur. Feel that once this takes place, increases in giving will follow.

### **What is being done regarding the properties on Charloma that the Church owns?**

Bill Guard responded: To help get monies for ground breaking plans are to sell the two houses on Charloma. There are two thoughts regarding the property. First, every month the properties are rented we receive monthly income (50 – 60 thousand dollars per year). If sold, we need to find a way to replace this income. One way to replace this money could be to have a dinner auction, similar to the school's auction. This event would be held in June of each year.

The second thought is to not sell the properties and use them as collateral to get the needed funds for the capital campaign. We have already investigated getting an interest free loan through F&M Bank.

### **Why did the Diocese leave the Bank of America?**

Deacon Bill responded: We have a more advanced relationship with Farmers and Merchants Bank. A ¼ to ½ million dollars will be saved throughout the Diocese with this move.

### **The screens used during Mass are sometimes very hard to read?**

Questioner reported that TV screens are easier to read and replacement bulbs for current the projectors are very costly. Perhaps purchasing larger screens (TV) would be more cost effective, as well as easier to read.

Respondent: Currently looking into various possibilities to solve this problem. Bringing back missals are also being looked at.

Suggestion to televise what is happening on the altar so that attendees can see it clearer.

**Previously the school had a recycle program, will it become active again when the building is complete?**

Mary Alvarado responded: Previous program done by school was hard to maintain. Because the trash containers can be accessed by the public, nonrecyclables were being put in recyclable bins and trash management company was constantly upset.

**Can we begin a new Friday Bingo program as a Fundraiser?**

Response: Yes, this is possible, but the problem is space. The Parish Hall is used continually. When we have the new building, there will be space available.

**Why are the outside school basketball courts closed?**

Response: Due to school safety the gates are closed in the morning and reopened in the afternoon. Gates are not closed during non-school time. Perhaps meetings taking place are causing cars to park in the court spaces. The school staff parks within the dates during the day to open parking for parishioners.

**What groups are available to help parishioners with special needs?**

Response: Tuesday and Saturday mornings – Food Bank  
Wheelchair Ministry – Knights of Columbus  
Mass for the deaf is held every week at St. Juliana Parish  
Will investigate class to learn sign language at St. Cecilia