



FACT SHEET 1 July 2013

Dear Church Family:

Much planning and study has occurred over the past few years at St. Peter Parish to ensure we address all of our parish needs, maintain fiscal strength, and most importantly, continue our ministries and Catholic presence for years to come. We want to share some important information about our Fall capital stewardship campaign to raise funds to meet those needs through building not just a new parish hall and kitchen, much needed storage space and meeting areas, as well as expanding our gathering space for multipurpose use. Also, very importantly, we need extra classrooms for CCD. By freeing up the current parish hall space, through renovation and a partition we can meet the dire necessity of creating more classrooms. We wish we could personally visit with each household, but obviously that is not possible!

We realize that you may have many questions on how we got to this point, why we have the current design we do and what does it include or not include. We understand you might not have been able to attend all the meetings in the past to give input or hear what features were discussed. Therefore, our plan is to provide you with several pieces of printed information over the coming weeks in order to fill in as much as we can. This first "Fact Sheet" is intended to give you a little bit of historical background and insight into how and why we arrived at our current building design. In three weeks we will mail a second "Fact Sheet" with more Q&A, more design details as well as specifics about our informational weekends.

Please take the time to read the enclosed information. As part of our *A Walk in Faith* campaign, every parish household is asked to pray about its blessings and commitment to the parish's future.

In His name,

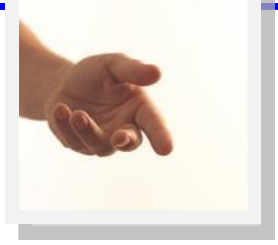
Fr. Bennett P. Constantine
Pastor

Donna Fedewa Chris and Kathleen Smith
Campaign Co-Directors

"NOT EQUAL GIFTS BUT EQUAL SACRIFICE"

What each of us should give is an individual response. Although we all cannot give the same amount, if our gift is motivated by a genuine level of sacrifice...then the gifts are equal in the sight of God. ***"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you."***

Deuteronomy 16:17 This scripture passage is at the heart of our theme.



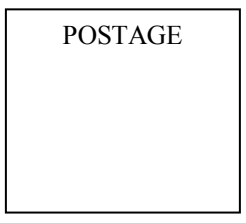
- We have to plan for the future.
- Portables have to go; need classroom/storage space.
- Parish Hall capacity: current 250; new 450 with tables
- Almost 500 parish families now; in the future?
- 6,076 sq. ft. of space in new Parish Hall design
- Nearly 4,000 sq. ft. of new & usable gathering space.
- Over 2,000 sq. ft. of kitchen and serving space.
- 1,400 sq. ft. of new storage space
- 525 sq. ft. of new office/meeting space plus current parish hall is freed up for other purposes
- Expansion of parking lot included in costs.
- Some remodeling of current parish hall in costs.
- New kitchen equipment included in costs.
- A/V, sound system and stage lighting in costs

Some Quick Hitting Facts:

- New bathrooms off gathering space with 6 stalls each
- We need to raise all the money up front—no loan
- One year goal timeframe for Capital Campaign
- Money—back Guarantee!!! Money raised can only be used for this project; otherwise it will be returned.
- Well over 2 years, 2 architects, various drafts, 3 final design proposals and countless hours of meetings and consultation went into the current design in order to be sure it meets the current and future needs of the parish.
- There is never a great time for a capital campaign and this is a good time to build since material and labor costs are relatively low.
- Now is all the time we have.



A Walk in Faith
St. Peter Church
515 E Knight St
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827-1356



Some Historical and Recent Background

We wish to give you a little bit of history that went into planning this addition. The Finance Council meeting minutes are dated November 29, 2010. After an opening prayer, drawings from an architect along with price estimates were handed out... That was over two and a half years ago, but the needs of a growing parish community go back much further.

It's been a generation since St. Peter's Parish moved from the stone church into the current parish hall because the parishioners could no longer fit inside the church. While the future wasn't certain, the need of more space was clear to the growing community and, thanks be to God, that included the vision to purchase over 10 acres of land for the generations to come. Outside the windows of the temporary church, cows leisurely grazed during Mass. About 30 years after that move, in 1994, the new St. Peter's Church was built and the old church area became the parish hall with a posted capacity of 250 people.

The cows are gone now. Homes now graze the neighborhood landscape. St. Peter's has nearly 500 registered families, or, in other words, **the number of families is double the capacity of individuals** that the parish hall can hold! With the blessing of more families comes more needs, more people, bigger events, more things to store, more children to form in faith, more people needing to use the restrooms. And because our current building facilities were not designed for our current numbers, over two and a half years ago the parish finance council had already begun the formal process to seek a suitable remedy to the many growing ministerial needs of the parish. To those in ministries, the needs were clear because they had to deal with the shortcomings and inconveniences on a daily basis. When you have to store needed kitchen appliances in a room off the back of a stage; when your kitchen doesn't have an adequate exhaust fan nor cooking area so that you prepare food elsewhere or in shifts; when parish things have to be stored in homes; when your parish dinner can only hold one person from every other family... it's clear. Every day, time is lost and extra labor needed in sometimes dangerous situations. This month a volunteer ended up in the emergency room from heat exhaustion while preparing food in the kitchen.

Throughout 2011, the minutes of the parish finance council meetings read like military strategy sessions. "Build south! Expand to the East! Break down the walls!" At each turn, the pros and cons of an idea are weighed, development planning is examined and critiqued. Changes are made, options assessed, costs are analyzed. Fr. Ben seeks a smaller financial imprint to the square footage needed to meet the demands of hall, storage, kitchen, parking, access, bathrooms, classrooms, meeting rooms. The hours are long. The meetings and months drag on. Draft, re-draft to the nuances of the changing landscape. Building to the South is impeded by site setback restrictions, access to parking and lack of kitchen drop off access along with increased demolition costs. A better solution is sought. A second opinion is sought from another architectural firm to assess the plans of the other. On September 21, 2011, Fr. Ben introduces a new architect with extensive experience in church building projects (including St. Peter's) to the finance council. Nearly one year after the start, the developed draft of new hall and remodel of school is handed out and assessed. Bryan Koehn makes some immediate suggestions to change the current model to improve space usage, lower construction costs and make better use of existing church/classroom layout. All agree.

2011 becomes 2012 and more meetings ensue to include the Pastoral Council, Knights of Columbus, the Altar Society and other ministries. All the needs and frustrations are put on the table. Detailed questionnaires are filled out to specify needs, features, layout etc. to best meet the parish's activities and goals. Three separate designs of the entire church property layout for building and remodeling are made and discussed. Overwhelming majority chooses one of the designs as the best of the three and that is how the current design was arrived at. It really wasn't a dream one night that Fr. Ben had. It was an extensive, at times excruciatingly detailed process of over 30 months, two architects and hours upon hours of discussion to find the best solution. Expanding to the South and East or West was too expensive and offered a less functional plan. The Northeast offered the very best. This final design is found and can be appreciated on the facing page. Look it over closely.

Fr. Ben and several others took the construction plans to Bishop Boyea in April 2012. They were told the diocese had no money to loan. St. Peter's plans were reviewed by diocesan officials who had no objections, but more documents were needed to meet diocesan requirements for a capital campaign and in June 2012, St. Peter's Church received official approval from Bishop Boyea to conduct a capital fundraising campaign for our project.

From 1878, when a few families met once a month in a parishioner's home, to the building of a new church in 1994, St. Peter Parish has grown into a vibrant Catholic faith community. Our parish has been through many changes in the past 135 years. Throughout our history, we have united to build two new churches, a Catechetical Center, rectory, and child development center. These times of change have brought us together as a faith family, requiring the best effort from every parishioner, and have been the most rewarding of times. Now is the time for yet another opportunity for change—the building of a new parish hall and the remodeling of our current space. As in the past, this project will require a positive "can-do" mentality. We look to the Holy Spirit to help guide us through the planning and building of our parish hall and remodeling of current spaces and to bless this project that will become a welcoming gathering space for our parish family!

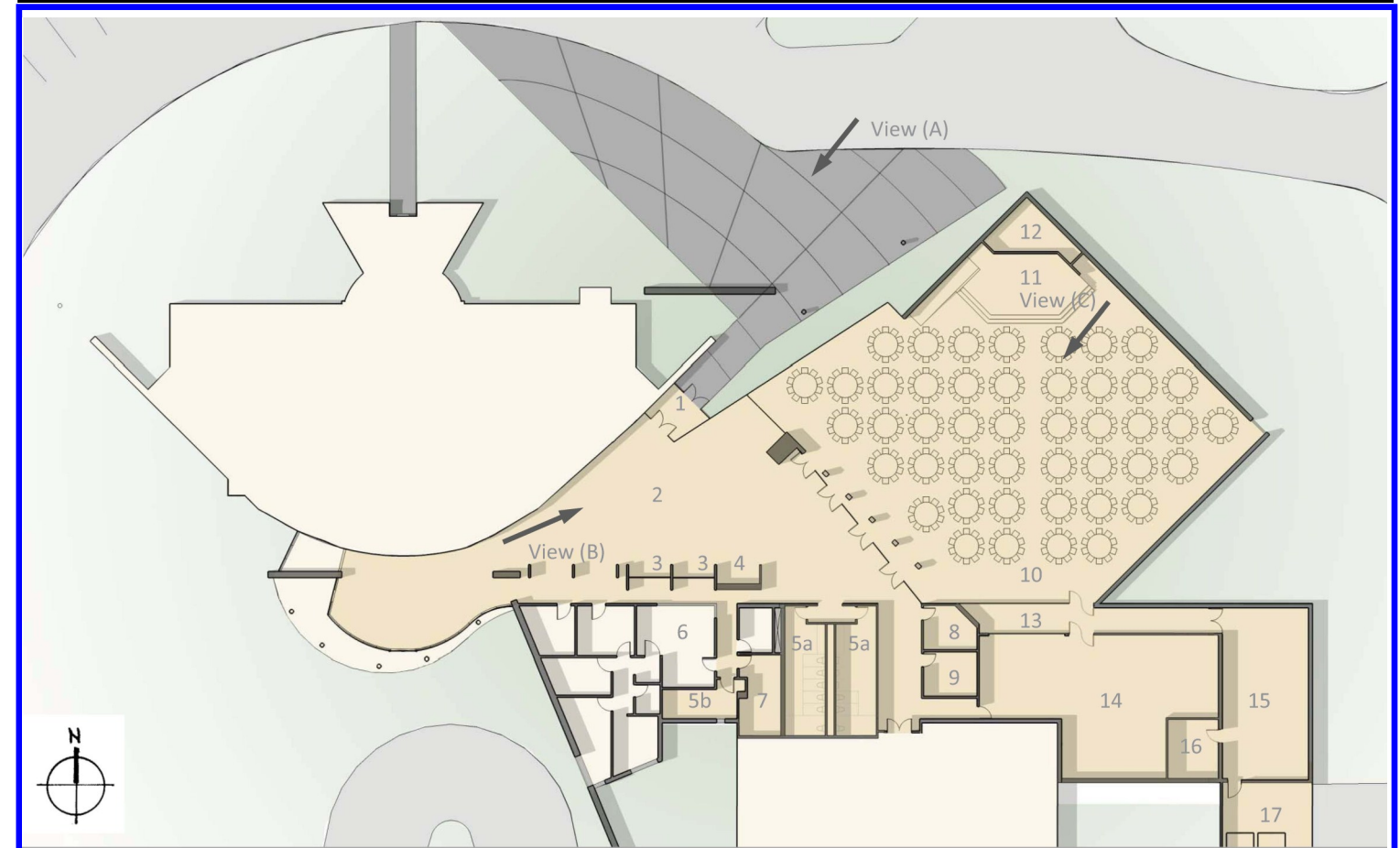
The RESULTS

A Walk in Faith will help us to continue our journey as a parish family in building the church of God. Our new parish hall, kitchen facilities, meeting rooms and storage areas will enable us to gather as a faith community, strengthen our faith together and better serve our community through our parish education and ministry programs. Through prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit we will continue the important mission and vision of this Catholic family named St. Peter Church!



ESTIMATED COST: \$2,250,000

Plans for Our New Parish Hall!



Room Legend

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Vestibule (130 sf) | 6. Extended Administration (328 sf) | 11. Stage (488 sf) |
| 2. Gathering Space (3690 sf) | 7. Extended Storage (192 sf) | 12. Storage (175 sf) |
| 3. Coat Storage (32 sf) | 8. Sacristy Storage (130 sf) | 13. Serving Prep (426 sf) |
| 4. Gift Shop (56 sf) | 9. Bridal Room (145 sf) | 14. Kitchen (1580 sf) |
| 5a. Restroom (6 fixtures) (290 sf) | 10. Parish Hall (6076 sf)
(450 seats shown with aisle,
capacity for 500 seats) | 15. Storage (871 sf) |
| 5b. Family Restroom (1 fixture, 131 sf) | | 16. Electric Room (180 sf) |
| | | 17. Trash/Delivery (350 sf) |

"It is our peril as Christians that we forget giving is a response to the grace of God. Stewardship requires a change from imagining ourselves as owners to seeing ourselves as trustees." - Bishop Robert Morneau