



ST GERARD'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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An open communication To Parishioners – Our House

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we consider new and exciting steps to foster growth and renewal in our parish we are mindful of our responsibility as good and faithful stewards of St Gerard's. In our Bishop's recent visitation, many of us had an opportunity to meet and discuss the status and contribution of our various ministries and we listened carefully to the Bishop's feedback and encouraging observations around our faithful stewardship. St Gerard's truly percolates with enthusiastic stewardship!

Our discussions with the Bishop also included the state of our building complex, our spiritual house and what we are doing as proactive stewards to ensure we maintain a safe, warm and inviting structure for current and future parishioners well into the future. As our building is approximately 60 years old, the Bishop asked if we had considered commissioning a Building Condition Assessment ("BCA"), which is a professionally prepared, comprehensive and detailed reporting of every key structural component of a building complex. The reporting not only assesses these key components but also provides timelines and cost estimates that could be used as a blueprint for discussion and action.

Since meeting with Bishop, we have concluded that a BCA at this juncture is appropriate, and we are currently working with the Diocese for completion.

In considering the state of our building, it is relative to have an understanding of what has been done over the past 25 years to gain an appreciation for what may be needed in the near future. Here is a recap:

1997 – The link from the Nathex to the hall was completed. You will note the ceramic tiles in the link are now 27 years old. They have performed well, but closer observation reveals the practical affect of 27 years of use.

2009 -2013 – These were the years of our "Renovo" campaign that encompassed a \$1.6 Million comprehensive project that included the HVAC upgrade and roofing in 2010 and the Worship Space renovations (including windows) largely completed in 2012.

2015 – We completed the kitchen upgrades from the proceeds of a parishioner bequest in the amount of \$90,000.

2017-2018 – We upgraded our washrooms, front doors and parking lot as a result of a donation from the Knights of Columbus in the amount of \$500,000.

As is noted, apart from the Kitchen and washrooms, several building components are aging and while we see no apparent deterioration and need for immediate action at this time, we know attention will be necessary over the next decade, including the establishment of a formal Building

Fund and Building Committee. The impending BCA will be a vital tool for embarking on proactive action and effective communication to our faithful.

The cost of the Building Condition Assessment will be in the order of \$25,000 - \$30,000 however the Diocese will cover 75% of this expenditure leaving the parishes commitment at approximately \$7,500 at the maximum. As the parish had previously set aside \$50,000 in savings for needs such as this, we will fund our portion from this savings account held at the Diocese which has thankfully now grown to over \$53,000.

Once the BCA has been finalized, we would like to call together a Building Committee, to review the document and create a framework for action, prioritization and fund raising. The building committee will consist of:

Father Ignatius

Finance

Building Maintenance Coordinator – Jim Emmelkamp

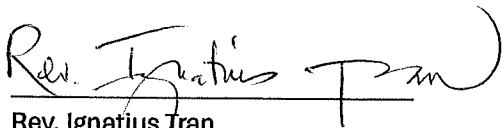
Volunteer Fundraising Coordinator – “New”

Volunteer Technical Advisors – “New” 2 individuals with experience in structural Engineering and/or construction.

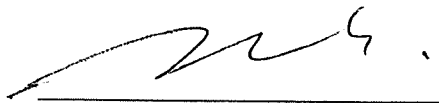
In due course we will be looking for a Fundraising Coordinator and technical advisors as noted.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are pleased to share these plans with you and welcome any feedback, questions, or observations you may have. Together, we will share our talents and enthusiasm, preserving for the foreseeable future, our beloved St. Gerard's as a beacon for spiritual growth and faith filled parish community!

In Christ,



Rev. Ignatius Tran
St. Gerard's Pastor



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