

FROM THE PASTOR...

January 24, 2021

Some parish updates. We're still waiting to hear if the Zoning Board for the city will approve the current draft for the planned parking lot across the street. Once the city approves a plan, we will be able to bid out to a paving company and move forward, there is an excellent construction manager from the Archdiocese assigned to us to make sure all the contractors give us the services we are paying for.

Please keep praying for Fr. McCarthy and his accuser, there really isn't fresh news in this regard. He is patiently waiting for the internal review board from the Archdiocese to make its recommendation to the Cardinal, but the review board only meets monthly and we have no indication yet of how much longer he must wait. Fr. McCarthy gets all the mail you drop for him so feel free to send him an encouraging note and a prayer.

The unification of the three parishes under the new name and identity of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity is gradually happening. You'll notice some changes in the church as well to help reflect the blending of the three. The candle sticks and creche are from St. Thecla. The presider/deacon chair, processional cross and Advent wreath are from St. Cornelius. There are plans, too, of getting a statue of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity and an image of her in stained glass up in the choir loft that will brighten the church as well.

Of course, these subtle or large physical changes to the campus and church are not as important as the compassionate change within our hearts. I know there are still deep hurts and frustrations regarding this merger, I hear about them often. Each parish had its own way of doing things and it's natural that if something doesn't look the way it did before then it might look like "my" former parish got slighted or disregarded in some way.

I ask for your patience but also for your voice. Covid restrictions have made it very difficult to have the normal means of getting together as a parish outside of Sunday Mass and school attendance. We will be planning some more town hall gatherings where people can come, perhaps after a Mass, and can raise questions or make suggestions about what could happen or what hasn't been happening in this unification that they think should. You can also send constructive feedback to me, other staff or to the councils that are forming.

In the next four to six weeks, we will be forming a basic Finance Council, Parish Council and Evangelization team that will help in rolling out the "soft entry" to Jesus that is part of phase III in the Renew My Church process. These good people, many of whom were on the Unification Committee, will advise me and then implement the strategic plans that include both temporal and spiritual aspects. The goal of this merger is to help us grow in our discipleship.

Friends, in the end, what ultimately binds this parish together is our faith in Jesus Christ and being members of His one, holy and apostolic Church. This can be a time of renewal, a time for the laity to stand up and be counted and to help unify people in the Lord.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Mike