

Building Committee News

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“domus Dei, the church of God, is a gathering place for the assembly, a resting place, a place of encounter with God, as well as a point of departure on the Church’s unfinished journey toward the reign of God.”

– *Built of Living Stones*

The Eucharist and Sacred Space

Fr. Paul gave a very enlightening talk this past Wednesday evening about the relationship of the Eucharist and the space in which it is consecrated. The talk focused on how Vatican II has interpreted sacred space and its reflection of how the church should celebrate the Eucharist.

Fr. Paul took us through the history of sacred space and how it has changed over time. He talked about the origins of the church and the “community model” of how early Christians gathered to celebrate the Eucharist. Under this model people gathered round the altar and celebrated Mass.

As the Catholic faith grew sacred space changed to what is called the “temple model”. This model has the priest facing the altar with celebrants behind him.

With Vatican II, the church has moved back to the the community model; a return to our roots if you will. The goal is to bring more participation in the sacrament of the Eucharist by all the people.

This doesn’t nearly do justice to Fr. Paul’s talk. It was highly informative and gave rich context to the building plans for St. Anne’s. Other talks will be scheduled to explain the liturgical underpinnings of Vatican II’s view of sacred space and what it means to St. Anne’s. Announcements will be made when there are specific dates.

Feedback

At the end of the talk there was an open discussion of the building project. All parishioners are encouraged to express their views by sending an email to stanneseattle@aol.com or dropping a note in the

collection basket. You can also talk with any of the Building Committee Members.

Timeline

The August timing is still on track. The initial phase calls for removal of the old Altar and the concrete underneath. A new Altar will be fashioned out of marble from the old and situated in the center of the Sanctuary on a raised platform. The choir will be relocated at the west end of the church.

To begin the process of building a new Altar, the High Altar will be removed some time this week. This will not affect the Mass Schedule.

An Important Meeting

A special meeting was called by Archbishop Brunett with Sr. Marilyn and Ron Ryan, our Pastoral Coordinators, to discuss the building project and to insure that there was continuity during this forthcoming transition period. Accompanying Sr. Marilyn and Ron were: Bill Gillis, Chair of Parish Council, Craig Parietti, Finance Council Chair and Kelly Nolan Shafer, a member of the Building Committee.

He was enthusiastic about the project, noting that St. Anne’s Centennial Celebration in 2008, when all the work will be complete, is the same year as his 50th anniversary as a priest. He again gave his approval of the design including the work to be performed this summer.

Because of this meeting with the Archbishop there is no longer a need to meet with the Archdiocese Building Committee on June 29th as was previously mentioned. This meeting has been rescheduled for September.