

Most Holy Trinity Parish

Renewing our Vision



“For I know the **plans**
I have for you,
says the Lord.

“They are plans for **good**
and not for disaster,
to give you
a **future** and a **hope**.”

- Jeremiah 29:11

reevaluate

As the parish continues to experience deficit spending due to decreased financial support, and as we have plateaued in commitments to the Capital Campaign, it has become necessary to **reevaluate** our development plans. We are short an average of \$15,000 per month in the regular operating budget, and the projected costs of our building project have passed \$5.5 million. These two realities greatly change our need and qualifications for a loan. Accordingly, it has become necessary to reevaluate our options.

responsible /

reasonable

The Lord calls us to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. Any monies borrowed need to be repaid fully and in a timely manner. Our ability to service a loan of \$2 to \$2.5 million – that is a monthly mortgage payment between \$9,000 and \$13,000 per month for 30 years – is unrealistic. We could however reasonably payback a loan of \$1 million. A project that sees us in a beautiful worship space and only needing to borrow one million dollars is **responsible** and **reasonable**.

reassess

Examining our current assets and projected liabilities, the parish needs to find a way to maximize our resources and limit our obligations. Our current buildings continue to age and are in continuous need of repair and ongoing capital improvements. And yet, as we **reassess** our existing physical structures in Cresco we find that we are positioned well to continue to build the Kingdom of God and the parish in our part of the Pocono Mountains.

reenvisioned

It is our desire to create a beautiful, inspiring worship space for parishioners and guests alike at Most Holy Trinity Parish. We want a space that celebrates our past, preserves our rich heritage, and allows current and future generations to worship our God in a fitting and worthy locale. This space needs to accommodate the whole of our parish family while at the same time positioning us for the real work of evangelization and mission. **Reenvisioning** our options, it is evident that our current worship space - *transformed and transfigured* - offers us such a space, while at the same time allowing us to be fiscally responsible.

recall

For decades parishioners with their pastor Msgr. Connel A. McHugh strove to build up the Pocono Catholic Missions. We **recall** how they foresaw a Catholic community gathered around a single campus composed of a school and parish church. Great sacrifices were made to construct a school and supporting convent, yet the final piece – a parish church – was never fully realized. Providentially, we stand poised to bring to fruition that dream as we continue to develop a Catholic campus in Cresco where in word and sacrament our faith life will be lived out.

recommit

“Catholic schools truly make an irreplaceable contribution to the Church and to the world, for the goal of Catholic education itself to communicate Christ, and to help form Christ in others.” - Pope St. John Paul II

From the pope to families of Catholic school children, we have all recognized how catholic education has transformed the minds and hearts of so many young people. We are proud of our schools, and as a parish we **recommit** ourselves to creating disciples of Christ through Catholic education. This is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen Msgr. McHugh School and to carry on a long tradition of supporting and promoting Catholic education.

repurpose / renovate

By **repurposing and renovating** existing spaces — and creating some new spaces — we can reduce costs, accelerate the timeline, and lessen our future mortgage. We are blessed to have a solid structure with ample space to meet the needs of our parish community and our school community. Repurposing the gymnasium and renovating common spaces will serve both communities well.

resourceful

Capitalizing on existing assets will reduce site work and construction costs while at the same time allowing us to incorporate even more elements from our former worship sites into our newly renovated space. Being **resourceful** and using our magnificent pieces – i.e. stained glass windows, statues, and church furnishings – we will dramatically transform both worship and common spaces into places of beauty.

results

We envision that this new approach will produce **results** in a timelier manner. With less ground disturbance, less construction, and already existing plans, time and money will be saved which will allow us to proceed quicker.

reduce

As we are aware the school building belongs to the parish and accordingly any major repairs or capital improvements are a financial responsibility of the parish. Some immediate needs of the school are a new boiler, new roof on the gym, new generator, and new electrical service. A new church building would be in need of these items as well. Thus it is wise to **reduce** duplication and invest in manner that yields the greatest benefit for all.

refocus

Servicing a large debt would consume tremendous time and energy. By reducing the amount borrowed, we will not be overwhelmed by the mortgage, and we can **refocus** ourselves on using our time, talent and treasure to build the Kingdom. We are called to be about God, not goals; about faith, not fundraising; about divinization, not debt; about mission, not mortgages. Our parish should be one of evangelization not maintenance.

reevangelization

Our focus for several years has been on building. As earnest and beautiful our desire for a new church, let us not forget the Lord's great commission before His Ascension: "Go, and make disciples of all the nations." The command to Go is repeated at the end of every Mass as we are reminded that our mission is in the world. As important as it is to gather for worship, we do so to be strengthened to **Go** ... to go out and make disciples in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces and society. As disciples of Christ today our most important work is **reevangelization** — that is, sharing the good news with the world beyond the walls of our church ... a world in need of a message of hope, a message of joy, a message of love.