

St Rose of Lima Parish Centre Blog



On Sunday Nov 15th 2015 we held our All Parish Meeting attended by approximately 75 people to let our parish know of the journey the committee has taken to date and show some 'concept' drawings from the company A49. When we say concept – it really means that it might look something like this, this is how a building would sit on the property and here are the rooms/spaces that we would like to have in a parish hall.

I will admit to being a bit nervous Sunday morning – will anyone show up, will we have the answers to their questions, will they like the ideas so far? I was hopeful that comments and questions would fuel us so that we could keep moving forward on the project. Your comments and questions did help and we are very thankful that 75 of you gave up your Sunday afternoon.

Now to the difficult part of – the general age of attendees was the over 50, over 60 and over crowd. Individuals that helped build and pay for the wonderful church we have to worship in today. There were just a few younger people and that was a clear message – your absence is interrupted by some as not interested and not supportive. I just don't know what it means because every Sunday I see parents with young families at Mass, religious education classes are full, baptisms are held after Mass and children are running up to the altar to hold hands and say Our Lord's Prayer. Surely this is an expression of interest and your presence every Sunday brings a smile to all who witness it.

There is growing concern across this province about the future of local churches and the availability of priests. Vibrant, healthy, active parishes will have no such worry and that is what a parish centre can help St. Rose of Lima become. We cannot build a sense of community without a place to come together - our church needs to be a place of worship, our fellowship needs to be in a parish centre.

Money is always the most sensitive yet needed conversation- who will pay for it, how will it be maintained and what policies will govern the use of the facilities. The simple answer is that we as a parish will need to pay for it, we will need to maintain it and we as a parish will develop the terms and conditions under which the facilities are rented/utilized.

I just attended a funeral in rural Cape Breton; after the service the entire community went across the parking lot to the Parish Centre and shared some tea, tears, food, hugs; stories with family, neighbours, strangers and the grieving family. I was humbled by the spirit of community, of faith and it was a very special experience! I was reminded once again how much we miss in this parish – or have we been without it for so long that we don't know what we are missing?

With that in mind I am even more committed to the committee's job of making sure that we come up the best available plan, at the most affordable cost. Then our parish can make the

most informed decision possible and at least I will know that we did our very best- no matter the outcome.

Cathy