

ST. PIUS X PARISH
Exploration, Discovery and Feasibility Process
March 19, 2010

Background:

St. Pius Parishioners with their former Pastor, Msgr. Richard Mouton, have had informal conversations about the dreams of a new church building. Fr. Steve LeBlanc also encountered these same types of conversations and was often asked in one form or another, “When will we have a new Church?” Fr. Steve raised this conversation to a formal level in beginning a Long Range Advance Planning Process using the Institute for School and Parish Development (ISPD) and their consulting expertise to determine what the people of St. Pius saw as their top priorities. The number one priority that came out of the LRAP Convocation, inviting the entire parish to come together, was “how do we improve our aging and inadequate facilities...”

From there, the Core Team of parishioners guiding the LRAP process, assigned the task to the Administration Commission of the Parish Council to do an extensive study of the building needs of St. Pius. This would not only be for a new Church, but to actually present a study of the entire building needs of the parish. This would encompass SPES, office and meeting space for the parish and a church structure.

One important question that the Administration had was: What are the Bishop’s plans for this area of the Diocese? Does he intend to develop a new parish and carve out some of the territory of St. Pius into a new Parish. To get the answer, Fr. Steve met with the Bishop and the Pastors of Sacred Heart in Broussard, St. Anne’s in Youngsville, and St. Joseph’s in Milton. The outcome of the meeting was that the Bishop’s preference was not to open a new parish, and that St. Pius would build a structure so as to accommodate the growth of the area. It was speculated that the amount of seating for such a structure would be between

1,000 and 1,500 people. St. Pius might need to consider buying land for a church this size.

The Administration Commission used this information to present different options along with their pros and cons. They also had the question of whether or not the present church could be remodeled to meet the future needs of the parish. They consulted with Wayne Corne who took the current structure and presented two scenarios on what might be done to remodel it. One scenario increase the seating to 712 and the other increased it to 826 from a church which now seats 520. Neither would meet the growing needs of the parish.

There was a strong preference to build on this site. The Pepsi Company was approached to determine if they would be willing to sell their property and relocate. They would not do that, so the option is not viable. There is a spoken preference to keep everything on this site.

The final report and recommendations of the Administration Commission was presented in its entirety to the Core Team and Parish Council on November 9, 2009. It is an extensive study.

The Administration Commission completed its scope of responsibility and now the Parish Council recommended to Fr. Steve that a building committee be formed and use the consulting firm ISPD to guide the process.

This phase of the process is the “Exploration, Discovery and Feasibility Study” where a Master Plan Proposal would be drawn up by the Building Committee to undertake the task of guiding parish listening sessions to get input from the parish on this Proposal. This will result in determining if the parish is willing to move forward with a building program and provide the financial support.