

### **Why can't we use the OSB and Avila Place?**

The OSB (Old School Building) has been decommissioned since 2009. It is a safety hazard and is condemned. The physical structure is crumbling to the point of no-repair and as a result our only option is demolition.

Avila Place, while not condemned or decommissioned, is a building that is in need of a great deal of work. The infrastructure of the building is damaged badly by wear and tear over the years; the heating mechanisms are almost 100 years old as are the other working parts of the building. Avila Place could be a gut-rehab, but the cost of doing such a rehab and bringing Avila Place up to current fire, safety, and ADA compliancy would be less efficient than building a new building that would better meet the needs of the parish.

These are old and historic buildings. We do not let them go easily, however, to continue in the best interest of the parish, it seems necessary to update our campus in a structure that does not have them in place.

### **Why do we have to change the church around? We like it as it is.**

We all believe with deep conviction that our worship space can be much improved, not only to enhance our visibility to the larger community but also to strengthen our celebration of the Eucharist. We worked to create a plan that would open up the church, placing the baptismal font such that it would be visible to the entire congregation and it would be visible to outsiders. Baptism is the only sacrament that unites all Christians. The parish has a mission of being a bridge-builder to other faiths and of awakening in the "lost sheep" the reality of God's Love for them. We believe that placing the font at the doorway along the wall of glass does just that.

In addition, the tabernacle is situated in a walkway with the participant's back to the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament; this is not a very prayerful or reverent position for the tabernacle. The shrines of St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother are also in the same walkway, making prayer difficult. The purpose of the shrine is to allow people to pray in front of the image, gazing at a lit candle or the image portrayed. There is not a dedicated space for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, since the current room has been relegated to storage.

We believe the plan outlined addresses the issues outlined above and speaks to the vision of being a bridge-builder in bricks and mortar and architecture.

### **Why start with the church?**

The reason for beginning with the worship space was that we believed transforming the façade of the church and renovating its interior would create more visibility for the larger community, and hopefully, attract new people. Plus the cost of the church phase was significantly lower than demolishing the old school building and erecting any new buildings that may have addressed our current need for more space.

Most importantly, our worship space is the one part of the parish that ALL parishioners access and utilize with regularity and it makes sense to focus on what unites us all.

### **We have enough space, why do we need a campaign and master plan at all?**

We have amazing ministries and programs here at St. Teresa. The reality is that we do not have enough space. The staff works diligently to make sure everything gets scheduled, but over the years we have had to sacrifice because of limited resources.

Our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program is growing, we now have a teen program – The Edge, and we have started a parent-baby group for new families.

Our Social Outreach programs have over doubled their output and need in just a few years! We now have a homeless dinner every Friday and Food Pantry weekly as well. We have a program trying to support our partners in Haiti.

Our adult parishioners have started new groups, as well as, the Men's Spirituality Group, 651 Club, Women's Spirituality, Las Damas, Los Caballeros, and Bible Study, are all in full swing and in need of resources.

We are doing wonderful things here. In order to continue on our missions, we must increase our space and, maybe even more importantly, increase the viable usage of our space in our buildings.

In addition, at the very least, our church is in need of work to become the best worship space possible for this community. Our two crumbling buildings need to come down. These are the first two steps in the process – two necessary steps to take. The success of this first phase will make subsequent phases that much more possible and will prove to the Diocese that we as a community are capable of really great things.

### **This doesn't look like the plan we saw prior. What changed?**

The original plan contained a center aisle with a more traditional orientation to the pews, ambo (a raised stand used for reading the Gospel or the Epistle), and Narthex. The plan also included moving the main doorway for the church from next to the bell tower to the center of the proposed glass Armitage Avenue entrance.

The building committee, and Fr. Frank, listened intently to all feedback received and went back to the drawing board and worked with an architect to address the concerns expressed with the prior plan. While we can't resolve the fear of change through our architectural plans, we believe we have addressed all concerns that we possibly can and are committed to moving forward.

### **Does the new configuration mean less seating space?**

The existing configuration has the capacity to seat 395 persons. The new configuration will have the capacity to seat 470+ persons.

Proposed Seating Configuration:

374 Fixed

88+ Moveable

8 ADA Accessible

### **Would having glass on the Armitage Avenue side be distracting during mass?**

In order that the celebration of the Eucharist not be distracted by the activity on the street and sidewalk along Armitage, we thought it was best to re-orient the pews so that people's back would be to the windows during Mass. In addition, there would be a planting bed directly in-front of the windows so that people could not stand directly next to the glass. Lastly, we plan to repurpose several architectural pieces from the convent, in this case four beautiful stained glass windows, in order to make use of some of our heritage which will also help with masking any distractions.

### **What if I don't have much to give? I won't make a difference.**

You make a difference already by being a part of this community. It is not reasonable that everyone will be able to give large amounts or contribute at all. The key is to being responsible givers. Each family knows their ability and has a responsibility to operate within their means. Small gifts are part of building a church as is prayer. During this time we will need all of your good gifts – especially prayer – to see this through.

### **How much is the whole project going to cost?**

We anticipate that total cost of the renovation and new construction as part of a Site Plan for St. Teresa Parish to be close to \$5 Million over the course of 10-12 years.

### **How much is Phase 1 (Church Renovations and Church Entrance) project going to cost?**

We anticipate Phase 1 will cost \$960,000 (which includes a 20% contingency) and will take about 9 months to complete (April 2015 to December 2015). Phase 1 consists of the worship space interior and façade. The next planned phase will be the demolition of the Old School Building and Avila Place. A subsequent phase will include additional ministry space. This is all part of a long-term vision for the parish.

### **How will we ever afford this with such a bad economy?**

It is true that our nation's economy is not in the best shape at this time. Many have suffered job loss or other hardships. Those facing hardship are always in our prayers as we hope that St. Teresa of Avila Parish will continue to be in theirs.

As we look at the horizon, if we waited to complete these projects until the economy was "stable," they in all likelihood would never get done. It always seems that the future is a better time to do things, but our reality and needs are of today.

Financially, this is not a short-term project. It is a project that will carry over for the greater part of a decade. The reality is that some of you may not be here when this meets fruition. It is important to remember though that the good works and stewardship you have put into this faith community will continue to grow beyond your time here – and we cannot do it without you. You are giving a part of yourself to the future of this parish, enabling it to grow out of your giving.

It is our hope that by spreading this plan out over a longer period we will be able to afford each project as it comes along.