

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FUTURE COLLABORATIVE OF ST. MARY, ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO, AND ST. JUDE PARISHES, WALTHAM

This report is a result of four meetings held by the parishes of this future collaborative. These meetings were called at the behest of the Archdiocese as St. Charles Parish looks at the sale or long term lease of church properties. The Archdiocese wanted each of the members of the future collaborative to advise and be comfortable that any decisions made at the present time will not adversely affect future collaboration. Each parish made separate recommendations on the future use of their own parish properties as well as the other two parishes. This report is submitted with agreement from the committees of each of the three parishes.

THE FIRST THREE MEETINGS

We scheduled three meetings (one at each church) and invited everyone from the three parishes to attend. During each meeting, a committee from that individual church presented a summary about the life of their parish, along with a walk-through of the facilities. These meetings were held on the following dates:

January 30, 2014 at St. Mary's
February 6, 2014 at St. Charles
February 27, 2014 at St. Jude's

These meetings were well-attended and provided a forum for attendees to share information, ask questions, and learn about one another's parishes. The walk-through of each church's property was very helpful and gave everyone a better understanding of each building's condition and usage. Approximately fifty people attended each of these meetings. Father Paul Soper and Ms. Diane LeBlanc of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council attended the second meeting.

From these meetings, a list of ten questions was drawn up and approved by each parish. These questions helped each parish prepare for a discussion to take place at the fourth meeting and also provided the input for this report.

THE TEN QUESTIONS

1. List properties of your parish.
2. Are all the buildings and properties of your parish currently in use? Explain briefly.
3. Are they used on a regular basis or infrequently? Explain briefly.
4. Does your parish currently depend on all the buildings to function as a parish?
5. Could it continue to function without certain properties? If so, which ones?
6. Do your parish grounds make up one or numerous parcels of land? Would there be any challenges to selling property?
7. In light of what you saw at the previous meetings, are there any properties or buildings in your parish that will not be essential to the future collaborative? Please explain.
8. In light of what you learned at the previous meetings, are there any properties or buildings in the two other parishes that would not be essential to the future collaborative? Please explain.
9. Would the future collaborative benefit from fewer properties/buildings? If so, which ones?
10. In what ways were these meetings helpful or unhelpful?

THE FOURTH MEETING

We held a fourth meeting on March 28, 2014 at St. Mary Parish and invited a committee from each of the three parishes. The committees were made up of the following individuals along with Fr. Leonard and Father Nolan:

- St. Mary:* Marge Maguire, John Monaco, Sheila Bennett, Ivan Colon, Mary McCarthy
St. Charles: Mary Darcy, Carol Gill, Lynn Young, Joanne Malouf, Jim Pirie
St. Jude: Christopher Perruzzi, Bill Wade, Bob LeBlanc, Ann Witham, Patrick McDonough, Richard Drechsler

The focus of this meeting was to discuss the ten questions, tabulate the results, and form an initial plan for how the buildings would be used in a future collaborative.

THE PLAN

The churches of each parish need to be preserved for worship.

St. Jude

- The school building will continue to function as a Catholic school and provide space for religious education and parish functions.
- The parking lot is necessary and needs to be retained.
- Currently the rectory is used as the priests' residence. It also houses the parish offices. The future pastor and priest(s) of the collaborative could choose to live in this rectory or use it as parish offices. The property would be difficult to lease or sell since it is attached to the church.
- The convent is currently used by the Religious Sisters of the parish. They work at the school and pay rent to the parish. The convent is across the street from the church. If in the future, the convent were vacated, the parish collaborative staff and St. Jude parishioners could discuss options for use, sale or lease of the building.

St. Mary

- Currently the rectory is used as the priests' residence. It also houses the parish offices of Saint Mary and St. Charles. The future pastor and priest(s) of the collaborative may choose to live in this rectory or use it for parish offices. The property would be difficult to lease or sell since it is located in the middle of the church grounds.
- The parking lot needs to be retained for regular parish operations.
- The Parish Center is the former convent. It houses the Immigration Center, the After School Program, Catechesis office, Chapel, and meeting space for parish and community groups. It would continue to function as a multipurpose space. It is surrounded by the church parking lot adjacent to the church.
- Currently the Carriage House has seasonal use due to lack of heat. The two-bay garage is used for storage. The property would be difficult to lease or sell since it is located in the middle of the church grounds and does not have an egress.
- The four car garage would be retained for the priests' cars.

St. Charles

- The rectory is currently not in use and has not been for a few years. Due to its large size and current condition, it not seen as being necessary to the future collaborative. The

future pastor and priest(s) of the collaborative would live in the rectory of one of the other two churches in the collaborative. It is a separate parcel of land that does not touch other parish property. The rectory would be leased or sold.

- The parking lot on the corner of Hall and Taylor Streets is a separate parcel of land. It is vacant. In recent years neighbors have parked and abandoned their cars without authorization. It can be sold.
- The Parish Center is used on a limited basis. It includes an apartment that currently houses two outside priests (not working for parish). It is attached to a parking lot and a large empty lot. This building can be leased or sold in a way that does not impact the functioning of the future collaborative.
- We are not recommending that all of the St. Charles property be sold or leased simultaneously. Depending on the plan, any of the properties can be considered for lease or sale without impacting the future collaborative in a negative way.

SUMMARY

In accordance with the Pastoral Plan *Disciples in Mission*, “the parish collaborative supports the unity and identity of each parish, while at the same time encouraging the parish communities to work together for the common good and the mission of the new evangelization.” As such, the future collaborative of St. Mary, St. Charles, and St. Jude parishes has worked together and identified that the sale or lease of certain properties at St. Charles would be a positive step towards the success of the collaborative. The only other possible building that the committee agreed could be sold or leased in the future without impacting the collaborative is the convent at St. Jude Parish if it were ever to become vacant.