

## **TOWN HALL MEETING QUESTIONS ETC.**

*The following is a summary of questions raised at our parish Town Hall Meetings regarding the Bicentennial Campaign.*

**Why do we need this campaign** The Church needs to prepare for the demands of the next century of Catholic evangelization. Our Bishop asks that we realize together how important the Church is as the Body of Christ. We must work to make sure that every reflection of who the Church is—in every parish and mission—focuses on these three (3) essential elements.

Parishes are at the center of Diocese priorities. We must also address shifting demographics and the current facility shape of our buildings. It is essential that we respond to the needs of all God's people in our Diocese—our parishioners, our seminarians, our children, and our most vulnerable. Here at St. Joseph we have identified areas that we can improve our sacramental focus with some building enhancements.

**How much should I pledge?** A pledge should be determined after prayer for God's guidance, one of which you can be proud, and one that you know will help the vision for the Diocese of Charleston and St. Joseph's. Gifts to the *Bicentennial Campaign* should be **equal sacrifice, not necessarily equal in dollar amount**, and it is our hope that your giving reflects this measure. Remember, that gifts can be pledged over a five-year (5) period. Everyone will receive an individual letter with a suggested and/or recommended pledge value.

**How was our goal established?** Parish Targets are set at 105% of the average of the previous three (3) years of offertory income (FY 2017 – 2015). St. Joseph's goal was established at \$500,000.

At St. Joseph's we have also a **TARGET of 100%** parish participation as "*One Family in Faith*" as members of the BODY of CHRIST.

**How will funds be distributed back to our parish?** Our Parish Share is 50% of funds pledged once received. We will start receiving funds starting the first fiscal quarter after conclusion of our parish campaign.

**How were the St. Joseph's project chosen?** The campaign committee developed a list of potential projects and they were reviewed with Parish Council, Finance Council and a recommendation made to Father Patrick who presented those to the Diocese for review and agreement.

**Why are we moving the Tabernacle back to where it was once before?** The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "The Eucharist is 'the source and summit' of Christian life." It is in keeping with this meaning that the Tabernacle that holds The Eucharist will be repositioned behind the center of the altar. As such, our connection to the Father through the shadow of God will be recreated in our church.

## ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER BICENTENIAL CAMPAIGN

**Why are we changing the front of the Church:** This conceptual improvement to our fifty-year-old building is driven by a need to elevate and give proper and appropriate space for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Current space is inadequate for a reverent experience in keeping with the holiness of this sacrament. Relocating the entry to our church in one central portal allows for the creation of appropriate space for the Sacrament and a cry room.

**Aren't there still issues with roof and water intrusion?** The initial conceptual design does not alter the structural elements of the building. However, prior to any modification our architect and his PE (professional engineering staff) will study and analyze the changes to ensure no issues exist as well if required recommend additional upgrades beyond the new roof.

**Is the brick exterior supposed to be sealed periodically?** We are researching that recommendation from previous work on the building, but there are varying opinions as to the efficacy of that as an additive solution.

**Are the side handicap doors being eliminated too?** No, those side doors are the best solution for ADA compliant egress and ingress with auto-openers and direct access to the two handicap spaces in our parking area.

**What are you doing about informing other parishioners who do not attend Town Hall Meetings?** While every registered parishioner was invited via postcards and bulletin notices along with Father's invite after masses, we realize many may not be able to attend. Once the Town Hall meetings are completed, the full set of PowerPoint slides will be posted on the St. Joseph's website for everyone to review along with these questions. Individuals can also ask additional questions through an email link on the website or call the parish office.

**What happened with the "Our Heritage, Our Hope" Campaign?** "Our Heritage, Our Hope" was a campaign within the Diocese starting back in 2005, see the following link for more details: <https://themiscellany.org/2005/09/01/diocese-launches-our-heritage-our-hope-capital-campaign/> This article describes the goals of the campaign. Regarding the final results and utilization of the funds raised, we have a request into the Diocese Campaign office for additional information, which we will post here once available.

**Where can I ask addition questions?** You can email from a link on the St. Joseph Website or call the parish office.