

# Immaculate Conception Church

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Dear Brothers and Sisters of Immaculate Conception Church,

If you are new to the parish, you might not know one of the jokes told by some old-timers, that it took us five years to do a five-year plan. Well, we finished the temporarily final touches on it in February of 2016. The Third Goal in the Stewardship section is to *acquire adequate space in modern, well maintained facilities and grounds to support all present and future parish ministries.*

In the last three years, much has happened, and one of the hardest working groups has been the *Facilities Management Team*. They have come a long way toward a survey of all of our buildings. At the same time, the *Facilities Maintenance Team* has accomplished quite a bit, including: the big tent at our front door and the plaza, new restrooms here in the main church, air conditioning brought back to the Narthex, stations of the cross repaired and moved into the church, pews and kneelers cleaned and braced, an audio/visual security system, new roofs on the main church and on the Old Chapel, new copper on the steeple, kneeler padding replaced in the chapel, sealing and striping of the corner parking lot, a carport at Fr. Rodolfo's house, a safe all-weather walkway between the old rectory and the garage, statues painted and repaired, handrails painted, new signs on Franklin Street, a new dishwasher and ice maker in the Social Hall kitchen, and a number of other things. Much of this is done by a group of parishioners who come together on an occasional Monday.

Well, consistent with the Five-Year Plan, the *Facilities Management Team* has reached three decision points for the *Parish Council*, for the *Finance Board*, for the *Connection Ministers*, and for the parish at-large. And we need some help.

We need help with three task forces: **Columbus Hall**, **The Historic Old Chapel**, and the possibility of a **new big gym-size social hall**. All three of these are from three and a half years of listening to parishioners tell me about this parish. Please listen to these three possibilities, and if you are able to help with legwork to gather information, well then let me say, HELP!

**Columbus Hall** used to be the Masonic Lodge, but it has now been Knighted as Columbus Hall, consisting of three parts. The very old house in the front once belonged to parishioner Mike Sullivan, who was mayor of Clarksville in the late 1870s. The second floor of the addition on the back is a pretty cool room and about perfect for the Knights, and the basement dining hall with a kitchen has been used primarily by our active Boy Scouts and Explorers. You could describe the current condition of the building as only suitable for Knights and Scouts, though some might think that sexist. If we decide it is too expensive to make it useable by all of us (and without embarrassment for "guests" and "company") then we need to go on and tear it down. We had thought for a good while that we would have to tear down the old house and build a new façade on the front wall of the newer part, but have been surprised to learn that we may be able to keep the old house on the front, perhaps as an open air gathering space.

**The Old Chapel** was dedicated in 1880 and is used today for weekday masses, confessions on Saturdays, most of our weddings, most of our funerals, the monthly Korean mass, and is open 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Saturday for private prayer. The primary needs for the Old Chapel are a restroom and handicap access (and safe casket access) through the front door. I am also suggesting that we consider taking out the last two rows of pews to accommodate people who gather before weddings and funerals and at funeral visitations.

**A New Big Gym-Size Social Hall?** Imagine, walking out of the Main Church after a wedding and walking over to a big gym-size social hall for a reception. For the footprint, imagine the entire space of the current Nursery, Beer Garden, and Playground (which can be moved and be fenced in on the land behind and closer to the Pre-School). So, this Social Hall would need to have a Kitchen and a Nursery. Think of something big enough for the whole Christmas Crafts Fair, an indoor play area for Life-Teen on Sunday nights, a facility that nonprofits in Clarksville could use for events (perhaps a ukulele festival someday?), and should the parish someday decide to build a school on campus, we would already have a gym. This would allow us to convert part of the current social hall into much needed classrooms. Clearly this would be the most expensive of the three projects. But can you imagine it?

Can I say it again? HELP! Especially if one of these three possible projects intrigues you, we need some parishioners to do legwork in coming up with proposals of how best to do the projects and estimates on what the cost and time frame might be. If you have knowledge about construction and such, all the better; but that is not essential. The *Facilities Management Team* has begun; what we need is some folks willing and able to devote time and energy now to keep the ball rolling. And let me be clear about this: No absolute decisions have yet been made. We need to connect ideas with legwork.

Who are the parishioners who have already been working on this? The *Facilities Management Team* is led by Maggie Kulback, and includes Dave Swalgren on the parish staff and Tom Vaughn, Rick Catignani, Roger Voorhis, Len Stolz, and Bill Young until he went to heaven. The *Parish Council* is led by Patty Pierce and includes Pat Paszek representing RCIA, Elizabeth Ramos from the Hispanic Ministries, Kathie Schuler of the ICCCW, Lisa Meeks from the School Board, Ed Wilson and Ray Hynson from the Knights of Columbus, Selene Anderson who is our Secretary, and the Priests and Deacons. Serving on the *Parish Finance Board* are Maggie Kulback, Scott Donnellan, Raby Nance, Clif Sites, Mike O'Malley, and Tom Edwards. The *Steering Committee* that worked so hard on the Five-Year Plan included several of these folks already mentioned, plus Ray Runyon and Tom Skrodzki.

If you already know how you can help, you can go ahead and contact the leader of the *Facilities Management Team*, Maggie Kulback, at [kulbackb@gmail.com](mailto:kulbackb@gmail.com). And I will be available after mass if you have any general questions about these three possibilities.

Thank you again for all you do to help us keep open the doors of Immaculate Conception Church to all those whom God is bringing here to be part of the Body of Christ in the Church Universal.

Peace in Jesus Christ,



Rev. Steve Wolf, Pastor