

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Interior Design Team Meeting
August 11, 2015

Present: Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor; Charlene Buhlert, Mary Castle, Diana Diaz, Lorraine Doering, Ann Eriksson, Jane Gladden, Pat Goscienski, Phil Goscienski, Kathleen Quinn, Chris Smith

Absent, Excused: Kathy Arciero, Mario Diaz, Robert Habiger, Brian Leahey, Douglas Lynn, Sondra Parks

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:00 PM.

- **The Cosmic Christ**

We had learned about the mosaic depiction of Christ that is now part of a chapel in a convent in Connecticut. The building that holds the image is scheduled to be demolished early next year. It has been offered to our parish at no cost if we will remove the image, pack it and ship it to our church.

Father Mike visited the chapel in Connecticut along with Brian Leahey. They agree that the mosaic would be appropriate for our new Meditation Garden. While the image has been called "Cosmic Christ", the true name of it is "Jesus, the Divine Redeemer and Master of the Universe". We agree that this title is preferable.

The process for removing the mosaic calls for cutting it into three feet by three feet sections. The entire mosaic is fifteen feet tall by thirty-three feet wide. There will be a total of 54 squares. The cost for dismantling the image is \$180,000. The total cost for shipping the panels and reassembling the image in our Meditation Garden will be approximately \$270,000. This is not part of our present budget. However we believe that it will not be difficult to pay the expenses with anticipated gifts.

It is estimated that it will take a month to remove the mosaic image and have it refurbished by the artist. A new mosaic image like this would cost about \$200,000.

If we go ahead with this acquisition, we would install it in our new Meditation Garden. Perhaps it would be free-standing in front of a small "amphitheater"- like depression in the earth so that the fifteen-foot high wall would not appear too tall.

The question was asked as to whether the free-standing wall might block the light going into the Reconciliation Chapel. We were told it will not. Brian Leahey is asking the City Planning Dept. about installing the wall.

The decision regarding this process must be made before Christmas as the chapel is scheduled to be demolished in early 2016. The money for the project is from a special fund; it is not part of the present budget.

- **Daily Mass Chapel**

Lynn Kircher will design and make the image of the Risen Christ to be installed in the chapel. The cost is anticipated to be \$10-12,000. We looked at several drawings that he submitted but we agreed that we prefer an image that more closely reflects the idea of Christ as he appeared to the apostles in the story of the Road to Emmaus.

We discussed the altar for the chapel and it was suggested that we use our present altar that is on the upper level. It was made by a parishioner and is part of our parish's history. We also discussed the idea of reviewing our altar photos taken during the time when we toured local churches.

Chairs for the chapel have been ordered.

- **Reconciliation Chapel Window**

Elizabeth Devereaux plans to have the window ready before the dedication of the new church.

- **Chairs for Presider and Deacon**

We saw photographs of the chairs designed by Robert Habiger for the Presider and Deacon. They are almost finished.

After closing prayer the meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Quinn