

MAKING ROOM FOR MORE

Frequently Asked Questions



QUESTION: Why is St. Leo's renovating the Church & building a new Parish Life & Education Center?

- St. Leo Parish identified a need to raise funds to *Make Room for More* by adding *More* parking, *More* seating in church and *More* parish life and education space. General renovation of the church will also bring St. Leo Parish up-to-date with all building and code requirements!

QUESTION: How much money needs to be raised?

- \$7.9 million dollars
 - \$500,000.00 for parking expansion
 - \$3.4 million for church renovation/expansion
 - \$4 million for new Parish Life/Education Center

QUESTION: Do our parishioners support this renovation & expansion?

- Prior to beginning this project, a professional feasibility study was commissioned by Fr. Stan Strycharz. With over 46% participation among our parishioners, the study demonstrated overwhelming support of the proposed expansion.

QUESTION: Who is on the Building committee?

- Our building committee is comprised of St. Leo parishioners with much experience in a variety of areas. Some of the professional fields represented on the building committee are: legal, general contracting, development, and design. The specific individuals on the committee are: Fr. Stan Strycharz, Mr. Don Thomson, Mr. Bob Schuerman, Mr. Phil Galvano, Mr. Edgar Ramirez, Br. Ben McDonough, Mr. Mark Stahlman and Mrs. Mary Beth Geier.

QUESTION: Who is our architect?

- St. Leo's Catholic Church has retained Odle, McGuire & Shook. OMS is located in Bonita Springs and has been in business for over 91 years. OMS has been approved by the Diocesan Building Committee and has experience in all aspects of building projects.

QUESTION: Why was this design chosen for the church? Were there other options?

- According to diocesan policy, we contacted two architectural firms to gather information on different design and development options. The final choice for the design of the church was made for many reasons:
 - The renovation design allows us to maintain the original architectural design and "Spanish Mission" style which was envisioned by those who first built our church.
 - Cost factors were an obvious consideration. This design allows for us to best utilize the money which will be raised in the Capital Campaign.
 - The selected design allows us to maximize the number of new seats available for our parish family.
 - The construction and renovation process for this design will create the least amount of time in which we will be unable to utilize the church.

QUESTION: How much seating will be added?

- In the church, we will gain seating for an additional 436 people!

QUESTION: Where will the new parking area be? How many parking spaces will be added?

- The new parking area will be north of our current parking lot. At the initial stage, we will be adding an additional 265 parking spaces! That number will almost double with the continued development of our beautiful campus.

QUESTION: Will we lose use of the church during the construction phase?

- Certainly, there will be a time when renovation and construction will prevent use of the church. However, the construction manager and building teams will work together to keep the “down” time to a minimum. Of course, we will not discontinue celebrating the Eucharist. A plan is already in place to utilize the current parish hall for our liturgies, with the same Mass times that we currently have.

QUESTION: When will construction begin?

- Depending on the permitting process, construction on the parking lot will begin in March 2008 and is to be completed within several months.
- Construction on the Church is scheduled to begin in April 2008 and is to be completed within the year.
- A construction date for the Parish Life and Education Center has not yet been scheduled. Dates will be scheduled once it has been determined that pledges will support this phase of the project.

QUESTION: Why are we building a Parish Life & Education Center?

- Just two years ago our ministries and education programs involved few children. Today, however, we have one of the largest education programs for children in the diocese, with over 360 children involved in learning the Catholic faith. A new and enlarged Parish Life and Education Center will not only more adequately serve the growing needs of our children, but it will enable us to host parish events, gatherings, socials, etc. that will enrich our St. Leo community life.
- The new Parish Life & Education Center will include a stage for hosting special events or concerts, a large reception area, and a modern kitchen. It will also add an extra 8 classrooms for use by our Religious Education program bringing us to a total of 18 classrooms for our religious education program.

QUESTION: Where will the new Parish Life and Education Center be located?

- The new Parish Life & Education Center will be located at the southern most part of our property. You could visualize this by picturing it south of the Juan Diego Education Building and behind the DeVoe/Hummer dealership.

QUESTION: What will be done with the current Activities and Education Buildings?

- The current Activity Building, which is more than 30 years old, would be demolished and that area would be converted into additional church parking.
- The Juan Diego Education Building will remain and will continue to be used by our various ministries, our religious education & faith formation department and the Congregation of Christian Brothers/Los Hermanos.

QUESTION: When is my commitment to be made?

- We ask that financial commitments be made at one of the Masses on the weekend of March 1-2. In asking for commitments at that time, we will be able to determine the financial support, and therefore, the scope of the project.

QUESTION: How long is my commitment? When do I begin paying?

- The financial commitment is for three years. It can be paid weekly, monthly, annually, or in one lump sum. Giving begins at the “First Fruits” weekend on March 15-16, 2008. Payments can be made via check, credit card or direct debit.

QUESTION: How can I find out more?

- Information is available on our website at <http://www.stleocatholicchurch.org>. In addition, all parishioners are invited to attend an “open house” on February 9 – 10 in the Activities Building where architectural drawings and additional information will be presented. Members of the building committee will also be available to answer questions.

