



Questions & Answers

Construction Plans

Why not “Build a New Church” versus “Renovating our Existing Buildings”?

Whilst it is always exciting to go for new (similar to moving to a new home), we had to sit back and make some key decisions that would support and sustain the parish for years to come without putting a unsustainable financial burden on future generations. When the decision was made to move ahead to address the needs of our church, our Finance Committee Co-Chair, Carlo De Pellegrin met with Dave Finnegan from the Archdiocese along with representatives from our Building committee. There were some compelling discussions around the need to “build” versus “renovate” however based on the assessments and research conducted, it was confirmed that:

- 1. The Current Church building is a solid structure which with proper maintenance will last many years into the future*
- 2. Richmond Hill just does not have the Catholic demographics to support an expanded facility*
- 3. The cost for a new church would exceed \$13 million and would not be affordable for this community*
- 4. The ongoing maintenance costs would not be sustainable for this community.*

With the new plans to increase seating and the possibility of further increasing the capacity by 20% simply by adding an early Sunday Mass in the future, we expect to address the future needs of the Parish for many years to come.

What is the process for commissioning the work to contractors?

- The Architect, with input from the Construction Committee, puts together a scope-of work document that describes the work to be done and the trades required.*
- At the appropriate time, an announcement will be made to the parishioners at each Mass, as well as details will be available in the weekly bulletin and made available on the Capital Campaign display board at the entrance of the church (at least 1 month before decision is made).*
- General contractors are invited to price (tender) the work, and any parishioner (that has a trade and wants to participate) can give a price (or donation) to the winning General contractor. There are CCDC forms at the church office for contractors to be pre-qualified for any work.*
- All prices from all of the General contractors will be delivered in a sealed envelope to the parish; subsequently, all envelopes will be opened at the same time in the presence of the Architect, Finance and Construction committee members.*
- The criteria for awarding the work will be based on a) adhering to all the tender rules b) meeting the deadline c) has the best price and d) can commit to completing the work on a timely basis.*

When will the construction begin and will there be any disruption to Sunday service or use of the church?

The initial scoping of the water management problem is underway and plans for the work are being discussed with the building committee and the architect at this time. As soon as details are available, the Campaign Center at the back of the church will be updated with details. The intention is to keep the parish as informed as possible. There is no anticipated disruption to masses for the next few years and in 2012, more details will be provided once final plans are designed and approved.

Gifts and Pledges

How long is the duration of the pledge? What happens to regular weekly envelope collection and the monthly building fund collection?

The duration of the pledge is over a 5-year period. This will allow us to achieve our goals without putting undue financial pressure on our parishioners and community supporters. Our ongoing needs of the church will still need to be supported through regular weekly envelope collection.



Questions & Answers

What is happening with the Building Fund?

The monthly building fund (blue) envelopes will be discontinued for the duration of the Campaign (5 Years). You may continue to use the Building Fund envelopes until you have received your packages and then we expect you will evaluate your contribution and respond on the cards provided in the Campaign materials. If for any reason you wish to continue your Building Fund contribution in the same manner, i.e. not pledge the amount, the funds received will be placed in the campaign account. For the 5 year period, the envelopes will be available with Capital Campaign labels placed on the envelopes to eliminate confusion.

Is my gift confidential?

Absolutely; the pledge envelopes are opened by our Treasurer and a maximum of two deputy treasurers; we are encouraging all parishioners to return the pledge card regardless of the financial gift to close the visit and make their wishes known. We have established Financial Policies on the handling of records and funds. The fundraising company is tracking our progress and updating reports and validating records. The gift amount is confidential and is tracked on an independent database. The only information the Visitor Ambassador will receive is an update on when the completed pledge cards are returned to the office.

For 5 year pledges, do I have to start contributing right away?

No. On your pledge form, you can identify your start and end dates. As an example, it can begin as early as next month or at the beginning of the next calendar year.

Is it possible to schedule my visit at an alternative place or does it have to be in my home?

Our Ambassadors are pretty flexible in terms of their availability and location. We are happy to arrange the visit at your convenience, some popular choices are: after mass, in the church or in one of the meeting rooms at the church or a nearby Coffee shop. Some people have been meeting together as a group, (eg. the choir, Knights of Columbus)).

Financial Plans

How will we pay back the loan to the Archdiocese?

The total cost of the work is \$1.9M, which will be paid through \$1.2M of campaign funds, \$0.35M currently in savings and \$0.45M on loan from the Archdiocese. The Campaign Committee, is working to exceed the campaign goal of \$1.2M and reducing the loan amount. The loan, if any, is expected to be paid back over several years through regular offerings.

What portion of the Capital Campaign dollars goes to the Archdiocese and how much are they contributing towards the cost? Also, why are they charging is 4% on the loan?

The Archdiocese does not receive any of the funds raised in a Capital Campaign; 100% of the dollars raised stays within the parish. As well, the Archdiocese does not contribute towards the costs or expenses of the parish. With respect to the 4% loan fee, the Archdiocese pays parishes 5% on funds on reserve at the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese uses these funds to loan out to parishes in need.