

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About Our Lady of Fatima's

Church & Chapel Renovation; and Capital Campaign

Questions Regarding the Church

- Will the Tabernacle be returned to the center of the Sanctuary?
- Will we keep the same pews?
- Will the seating capacity be increased?
- Will there be a restroom on the main level?
- Will we keep the same stained glass windows?
- What will happen to the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary?
- Will there be space for wheelchairs?
- What type of flooring material will be placed on the floors?
- Will we keep the same lighting fixtures?
- Will there be better access for funerals, wedding, and other processions?
- What will happen to the Confessionals? Will they remain in the same locations?
- Do we need a large Narthex (vestibule)?
- Will the bells be returned to the bell tower?
- What is the new structure along the top of the roof?
- Will the doorway from the elevator into the choir loft be too low?

Questions Regarding the Chapel & Lower Level

- Is there a danger that the lower level can flood again?
- Will the Chapel floor have carpeting or a waterproof material?
- What is the purpose of the "Gathering Hall" on the lower level?
- Will the Chapel be noisy because of the Gathering Hall on one side and the restrooms on the other? And, will people in the Chapel hear the noise from the Mass from upstairs?
- How will the statues be chosen for Chapel?

Questions Regarding the Construction Period

- When will construction start and end?
- Where will Mass be held during the construction?
- How will the disabled get into the auditorium?
- Where will we have confessions, baptisms, confirmations, etc. while the church is unavailable?
- What will happen to the CYM basketball, other sports and groups that rent the gymnasium?

Questions Regarding Finances:

- What is the cost of the renovation, \$4.5 million or 5 million?
- Will the Diocese help us with the cost of the renovation?
- How much interest will we have to pay on the loan from the diocese?

Are you accepting ideas for fund raising?

Wouldn't it be cheaper to just fix all the problems instead of renovating the church?

Questions Regarding Other Items:

Will Saint Lorenzo de Manila remain in the same place?

Will there be a separate entrance to the lower level to service equipment?

Will the parking lot be expanded?

When will the sidewalks near the parking lot and the steps on Van Winkle be replaced?

Is there a danger of flooding in the new plaza in front of the lower level?

Will air conditioners remain on the flat roof?

Will the flat roof remain?

Will there be a new sign for the church?

Questions about the Capital Campaign:

How much should I give?

Do I have to make a down payment?

How long do I have to make the payments?

If I make a pledge, am I legally bound?

How will I know how much has been pledged?

How will I be informed of the overall finances for the renovation campaign?

Answers to Questions Regarding the Church

Will the tabernacle be returned to the center of the Sanctuary?

Yes. The tabernacle will be returned to the center of the Sanctuary.

Will we keep the same pews?

It is possible that we could keep the same pews, but there are several considerations. The existing pews could be removed and sent out to be refinished. In addition, the "connector bump" which people cannot sit on would be removed. This would result in one additional seat per pew. The cost of this involved process will be evaluated against the cost of new pews of a good quality. If the decision is to get new pews for the church, a number of the existing pews could be resized and refinished and installed in the Chapel.

Will the seating capacity be increased?

The seating capacity will remain about the same.

Will there be a restroom on the main level?

Yes. In response to the request of many parishioners, a handicapped accessible unisex restroom will be located off the Narthex near the entrance to the elevator.

Will we keep the same stained glass windows?

The stained glass windows will be kept. Some are damaged and others have warped frames. The stained glass windows will be cleaned and repaired and frames repaired as necessary.

What will happen to the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary?

They will remain. The new roof will include two dormers on the rear section, one on either side. These dormers will allow light to enter through the stained glass windows and into the Sanctuary.

Will there be space for wheelchairs?

Yes. There will be ample space for several wheelchairs and parishioners using walkers on both levels, and in the choir loft.

What type of flooring material will be placed on the floors?

The final choices have not been made. Obviously, the choices range from carpet to tile to wood or man-made materials. Each has certain advantages and disadvantages and different price points. These will be finalized when we get to the phase of getting firm price quotes.

Will we keep the same lighting fixtures?

The plan is to reuse the existing lighting fixtures. However, the lights will be updated to provide adequate light for parishioners and to prevent glare for celebrants when facing the nave. Additional lights will be added as required for up-lighting and for highlighting certain liturgical items such as the Stations of the Cross.

Will there be better access for funerals and processions?

Yes, the access to the church entrance will be improved. The exterior columns will be spaced wider apart and allow easier access for wedding processions, our Marian Procession and funeral processions, among other activities.

What will happen to the Confessionals? Will they remain in the same locations?

The Confessionals will be rebuilt, sound-proofed and reconfigured for handicapped access.

Do we need a large Narthex?

The Narthex will be extended by 22 feet. This additional space serves multiple purposes. First, the addition of the restrooms on the lower level, elevator service room, and the water closet for the custodian, all require a certain amount of space. The Narthex will be built above this space. Functionally, a larger Narthex allows for parishioners to meet and greet both before and after Mass without having to stand outside in the elements. This helps to build a sense of family and community. The expanded Narthex will also function as overflow space and as a cry room when children need to be comforted. The glass walls and doors and the speakers will allow all to see and hear the Mass from the Narthex.

Will the bells be returned to the bell tower?

That is under consideration, requiring our review of any pertinent regulations. However, bells are not part of the initial estimated costs.

What is the new structure along the top of the roof?

The “monitor roof” will contain the ductwork for distribution of the air conditioning. This will allow the air to be distributed evenly throughout the building. Currently, the air is blown from the front and from the rear, resulting in uneven cooling and discomfort for parishioners.

Will the doorway from the elevator into the choir loft be too low?

The distance from the choir loft floor to the ceiling is less than eight feet. This would be too low for access to the elevator. A careful view of the front elevations will show that matching dormers are being installed on either side of the church. The one between the church and the bell tower will allow adequate height for the elevator entrance.

Answers to Questions Regarding the Chapel & Lower Level

Is there a danger that the lower level can flood again?

The lower level flooded in large part because the electricity failed during Hurricane Irene, shutting down operation of the large capacity sump pumps. A natural gas powered stand-by generator is included in the renovation to automatically start as soon as electrical power is lost. This will keep the sump pumps working and should prevent future flooding of the lower level.

Will the Chapel floor have carpeting or a waterproof material?

Since the Chapel will be located on the concrete slab, consideration must be given to the overall warmth and comfort of those sitting for long periods of time with our Lord Jesus. Flooring that allows the radiation of coolness from the concrete slab would only contribute to a feeling of being cold. Therefore carpet is a consideration although other choices are also being considered. Also, remember that the addition of a natural gas-powered stand-by generator,

will always allow for the sump pumps to operate during electrical outages. This should preclude the need to install costly waterproofed flooring.

What is the purpose of the “Gathering Hall” on the lower level?

It will fill a variety of church needs. Currently for small to medium gatherings, parishioners must cross the parking lot to the cafeteria. This can be treacherous in winter and some find it uncomfortable at night. The cafeteria is a very large space in which to hold small to medium gatherings. The Gathering Hall will accommodate about 80 people seated at tables or about 100 or more standing. This will allow for meetings and classes to be held within the church. It will also allow for brief socials after Mass where parishioners can meet and greet one another.

Will the Chapel be noisy because of the Gathering Hall on one side and the restrooms on the other? And, will people in the Chapel hear the Mass from upstairs?

The Chapel will be sound deadened in the walls and in the ceiling. Additionally, full length storage closets will be built on both sides of the Chapel to provide an additional barrier against sound penetration from the rest rooms and the Gathering Hall.

How will the statues of the saints be chosen for Chapel?

This will be looked at very carefully with consideration being given to the saints that have special meaning to our church and its history, and the parishioners that attend it.

Answers to Questions Regarding the Construction Period

When will construction start and end?

Construction is totally dependent upon how quickly pledges are paid. Construction can begin once the capital campaign has received cash equal to 50% of the total estimated costs. The initial cost estimate is \$4.5 million. Therefore, it can begin once \$2.25 million has been paid. If the construction begins no later than the summer of 2016, the church should be completed in time for the 100th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady to the three children of Fatima, Portugal on May 13, 1917. Since Our Lady of Fatima Church is dedicated to the Blessed Mother, it would be a joyful and blessed occasion to have our newly renovated church dedicated at that time. If pledges are paid slowly, then construction will begin later than 2016, but again only when 50% of the total estimated cost is in hand.

Where will Mass be held during the construction?

Mass will be held in the auditorium for the duration of the construction, approximately 10 months to a year.

How will the disabled get into the auditorium?

The auditorium will be made accessible by the addition of a chair lift or wheelchair lift. This will be a permanent addition and will remain after the renovation is complete. In August, 2014, the sidewalk was replaced given the many raised sections that had caused a number of people to trip and fall. When that sidewalk was replaced, it was raised eight inches to make it even with the floor of the entry to the stairs to the auditorium/gym. That eliminated the step up that was difficult for the aged and disabled. This was the first step in making the auditorium/gym accessible.

What about weddings and funerals?

Our pastor will work with other nearby parishes to seek accommodations for weddings and funerals.

Where will we have confessions, baptisms, confirmations, etc. while the church is unavailable?

As needed, our pastor will work with nearby churches for those activities that cannot be appropriately held in the auditorium/gymnasium.

What will happen to the CYM basketball, other sports and groups that rent the gymnasium?

Sports and non-religious activities cannot be held while the auditorium/gym is converted for use as our church. CYM games will be scheduled at other locations. Other sports groups will be required to seek other locations during the construction period.

Answers to Questions Regarding Finances:

What is the cost of the renovation, \$4.5 million or 5 million?

The initial cost estimate provided by the architects is \$4.5 million. However, depending upon the date on which construction actually starts, the concern exists that material and construction prices could inflate and inflate the cost of the renovation. The final firm costs will be determined when we reach the firm bidding and contracting phase of the renovation.

Will the Diocese help us with the cost of the renovation?

The diocese will provide a bridge loan to help us complete the project after we collect the required 50% of the total cost in cash. Remember that even during construction, pledge payments and other gifts will continue to be received. So, it should not be assumed that 50% of the costs will be borrowed from the diocese.

How much interest will we have to pay on the loan from the diocese?

At today's rate (Fall 2014), it would be six percent. That rate approximates what a lender would charge the diocese for an equivalent loan.

Are you accepting ideas for fund raising?

Yes! Fundraising ideas are most welcome, and should be given to the campaign office or directly to the campaign chairpersons.

Wouldn't it be cheaper to just fix all the problems instead of renovating the church?

The cost of fixing each problem in the church has been estimated at costing over \$2.5 million. In addition to making all the needed repairs, we really need to improve access for all of our parishioners to all areas of the church building. To make the existing structure accessible requires significant costs. The restrooms would remain on the in-between level and require significant reconfiguration to make them accessible. The front basement area of the church is subjected to water infiltration through porous masonry and could remain a future source of issues. Careful inspection has been made of the entire building by independent engineering consultants and several architects. All have agreed that renovation is the most cost efficient way to remedy the many problems and bring the building into line with today's codes. For more details on the building's present condition problems, detailed information is available on the parish web site.

Answers to Questions Regarding Other Items:

Will Saint Lorenzo de Manila remain in the same place?

Saint Lorenzo will be moved during the construction to avoid any damage to the statue. The extension of the rear of the church will come very close to where Saint Lorenzo stands today. Since there will be doors to access the mechanical room, it is likely that Saint Lorenzo will be moved to a new prominent location. The location will be determined in conjunction with the needs of the parishes' Filipino community.

Will there be a separate entrance to the lower level to service equipment?

Yes. The service door will be located on the Van Winkle side of the building. In addition, separate service doors to the mechanical room will be located in the rear of the church.

Will the parking lot be expanded?

The parking lot will remain relatively the same size. Given the extension of the church front, and redesign for handicapped parking, the driveway from New Market Road may be shifted a few feet toward the rectory. But, the number of parking spaces will remain about the same.

When will the sidewalks near the parking lot and the steps on Van Winkle be replaced?

These will be repaired or replaced after the construction is complete and the use of heavy equipment is done.

Is there a danger of flooding in the new plaza?

There should not be any flooding in the plaza or inside the lower level. The architects will examine via the variance process if a drain can be run from the plaza to New Market Road. But, sump pumps will protect the lower level and the electric feed to the sump pumps will be protected by the installation of the natural gas-powered back-up generator.

Will air conditioners remain on the flat roof?

The new air conditioning units will be located in a new mechanical room to be built under the new extension at the rear of the church. This will keep them out of the elements and extend their life span. Service doors to this room will be located behind the church as well as from within the lower level.

Will the flat roof remain?

The flat roof will be eliminated. It is a constant cause of leakage into the sacristy resulting in constant damage to the ceiling. The peaked roof will run the entire length of the church.

Will there be a new sign for the church?

Yes. A new sign with lighting will be installed in front of the church.

Answers to Questions about the Capital Campaign:

How much should I give?

Each family and person must give prayerful consideration to their own circumstances and determine how much they can sacrifice. Some can do more; some can do less. But everyone

should give what they can. Rest assured that every gift is appreciated and that no gift is too small or too large. Gifts have ranged from a few hundred or less, into the tens of thousands.

Do not let the size of a gift prevent you from making a pledge. It is understood that circumstances in life can change. One's income may become less or it may become greater. You are free to change your pledge to a greater or lesser amount if your circumstances undergo a significant change.

Do I have to make a down payment?

While it is suggested, a down payment is not a necessity. Make your pledge as soon as you can; payments can begin afterward. Down payments will allow the construction to start sooner.

How long do I have to make the payments?

The campaign will run for three years. However, you have choices depending on your circumstances. You can make the payments as quickly as you like if your circumstances allow. Or, you may ask to pay over an additional period of time. Contact the campaign office for details.

If I make a pledge, am I legally bound?

No. Pledges are not legally binding. They come from your heart and are sacrificial. Therefore, pledges should be thought out carefully and prayerfully.

How will I know how much has been pledged?

Each week the monies pledged and the monies collected will be published in the parish bulletin.

How will I be informed of the overall finances for the renovation campaign?

Each month, a financial report will provide details on the accounting of pledges, receipts and expenses.