

Parish Renovation Committee Presentation - February 2012

Good evening/morning everyone.

My name is _____ and I am a member of the Parish Renovation Committee.

We have been tasked with overseeing and implementing the replacement of the carpet and updating and refreshing the sanctuary and nave of the church to reflect current liturgical guidelines and a more efficient use of space.

Our current project began four years ago with the commissioning of a facilities audit of the state of our buildings and how we use them. Since 2010 we have made significant improvements to the office facilities and to improving the parish centre and parish kitchen.

Last year, we made a presentation to you about our plans to proceed with renovating and refreshing the worship space for St. Michael's Church. Since then, we have received a concept design and consulted with the Building Committee for the Diocese of Hamilton.

Now we are ready to proceed and are preparing to organize the work.

The report from the Building Committee for the diocese was very supportive of the work that we have done to date and described our plans as "modest and reasonable." Because St. Michael's Church occupies such a prominent location in Waterloo on a main traffic route and in the heart of a high profile university community, the report suggests that St. Michaels Parish and the Diocese of Hamilton have a responsibility to present and maintain a place of worship to reflect the church's high profile position and its vibrant liturgical life.

Copies of the full report are available on the desk at the front entrance to the church.

As we prepare to move forward with this work, you will notice some changes in the sanctuary over the next few weeks. The altar and ambo will be replaced with a more portable altar and ambo on loan from Holy Rosary Parish in Burlington, which will allow us to pinpoint the exact location for a new altar, ambo and chair for the sanctuary. Readers for Mass and musician will have to be patient with us as we “test run” the best location for them and for our sound system to reach everyone in the church.

We will also make available in mid March the preliminary sketches for the work that we intend to do.

This is the first significant renewal of our parish church since the mid eighties. We would like to assure our parishioners that we have taken a lot of time to reflect on what needs to be done and to study the best and most efficient ways to move forward.

Fifty years ago, a small group of parishioners had a dream that they would have a permanent place of worship for their families and for the growing community of north Waterloo.

The renovation work that we are about to begin is a commitment to moving forward together to a future full of confidence and possibilities.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to this update and we look forward to speaking to you again soon.