

**Parish Long-range Planning  
Updates and Summary to the Parish  
September 2011**

*As a report to our supporters, we provide the following brief synopsis of the activities of the areas of study determined for long-range planning for St. Mary's Parish. We thank the committees for their many hours of meeting and study to make recommendations for the growth and vitality of the parish. Parishioners are asked to review and you may forward comments and questions to Fr. Bruce at [balawler1@aol.com](mailto:balawler1@aol.com) or Dawn Prosser at [smalumni@iw.net](mailto:smalumni@iw.net) or call us at 732-3110.*

School – St. Mary's School's long-range planning committee is now working with the diocese and the National Catholic Education Association to continue their work. School administration and the pastor met throughout the past school year with the Meitler Group as part of the Diocesan Office of Education's Strategic Plan.

The NCEA has been hired as the consultant for all diocesan schools to help in local schools efforts, as part of the diocese's plan. A local steering committee has been re-established and attended training in Carroll earlier this month. The steering committee will meet with the NCEA consultant three more times throughout the upcoming school year.

Five subcommittee areas of concern have been formed based upon critical issues and other areas identified by the Meitler/diocesan plan. The subcommittees include 29 volunteers, parents and staff members to begin meeting this fall – Finance, Enrollment and Marketing, Minority Concerns, Catholic Mission and Academic Excellence. After gathering additional data, each subcommittee will create local goals and action steps. A final plan will be finished in Spring 2012.

Technology – The parish and school technology security has been tightened, the parish and school now have separate servers with increased capacity. With the ball and Bishop's Dinner money, additional laptops, projectors and document cameras have been purchased. Each educator must present a plan on how technology is used in their curriculum. Next year, bulky monitors will be replaced by flatscreen monitors in the elementary lab. Gently used equipment has upgraded one of our labs and created a mobile lab. Future plans also call for upgrading the wireless in the school and parish and standardizing operating systems throughout the organization within 3 years .

Property Management – This group created a comprehensive study of the existing buildings and explored possibilities for future use of parish facilities.

Parish House/Parish Offices - Inadequate space – not enough room for all staff members. Recommendation – new parish office space for all staff members, return rectory to living quarters for parish priests.

School - Inadequate space for administrative offices, small classrooms, inadequate classroom space, lack of gym facilities, need for new kitchen, inadequate parking for staff and students. Recommendation – all elementary grades in one building with multi-purpose room, separate from the cafeteria with a need for more classrooms. Remove classrooms from the convent and move them into elementary building. Move middle school into existing high school. Build new high school facility with new cafeteria on southwest corner of existing facility. Existing cafeteria becomes multi-purpose room.

Parish Center - Needs to be adjacent to church and school as identified by parish and school staff and parish members. Recommendation – attached multi-use facility to house parish offices, music ministries, meeting rooms, school fine arts rehearsals, kitchen, main hall. Possible joint facility with the Knights of Columbus.

Church - Liturgy space renovated. Parking needs to be paved.

School of Faith/pastoral ministry - Inadequate office space, no adequate space for RCIA, youth ministry, etc. Existing classrooms inadequate in numbers and size for School of Faith program. Conflict with cross use between SoF and school. There is conflict over use of gymnasium on Wednesday nights. Recommendation – School of Faith office in new parish center facility, explore the use of South School for SoF classes (need to acquire classroom tables and chairs), or utilize new high school building for additional classrooms.

Other – sell and move rental home north of the convent, acquire all property on the block, pave north parking lot, demolish convent, renovation of rectory for private living.

School of Faith – The best direction for the SoF is to form a board made up of at least four people preferably with a parental interest who can offer guidelines for catechists, students and DRE. We distributed evaluation forms to find strengths and weaknesses of program and then compiled the information. We believe the board, after it is formed, should take responsibility to maintain relations and offer direction between catechists, students and DRE. Recruiting, classroom space and enforcement of the handbook should be top priority with the Long Term Committee available to offer guidance.

Youth Ministry – No report due to suspension of ministry.