



# Interim Report – May 11, 2008

## Next Steps to Meet the Facility Needs of the Parish of St. Leonard

The *Cherishing the Past, Embracing the Future* Report concluded that further study was required before any final recommendations could be put forward to parishioners. This report was based on Facility Committee work that began in late 2006. The Facility Committee was charged with the responsibility of recommending a plan to address the pastoral needs of the Parish of Saint Leonard as they pertained to buildings and structures. The Facility Committee narrowed its focus to consider the need for worship space and a Pastoral Centre.

The Facility Committee studied the issues, engaged professionals to completed an audit of the worship spaces (church buildings), and consulted with stakeholders. These consultations included the pastoral team, parish staff, support team, funeral directors, CWL, St. Vincent de Paul, Liturgy Committee, Finance and Administration Committee, Pastoral Council, Hall Committees, Ways and Means Committee, Cemetery Committee, and both an afternoon and an evening Open Session for parishioners in general. As well, the opportunity for providing written input was advertised via our Sunday bulletin. People also provided insights and information through more informal means. After much deliberation the Facility Committee wrote a report and released its recommendation to Pastoral Council and the Finance and Administration Committee during a joint meeting. After subsequent meetings, amendments were made and the report of the Pastoral Council was shared with parishioners at the January 27, 2008 General Meeting.

In this report, the Pastoral Council recommended studying the relocation of the Pastoral Centre (with a modified design) to the current St. Michael site. The Council also put forward a recommendation to explore the possibility of establishing a more modest (both in terms of cost and design) attached church space component located at this same site. If this option was not feasible, the Pastoral Council recommended further study be done regarding the reconfiguration of the current St. Agnes space to meet the worship needs of the parish. This would not include the relocation of the Pastoral Centre. The estimated cost of this option is unknown at this time.

Both options noted for further study include the creation of one worship space for Sunday liturgies. In reviewing the liturgical principles of the Conference of Catholic Bishops, along with gaining a clearer understanding of space requirements, it has been determined that the smaller church buildings cannot meet the worship space needs of the Parish of St. Leonard.

Following the General Meeting of parishioners, Pastoral Council and the Finance and Administration Committee restated their support to further study the options that were outlined in *Cherishing the Past, Embracing the Future* which including the creation of a Steering Group to oversee this work. Pastoral Council furthered determined that this committee should be comprised of two members from Pastoral Council, two members from Finance and Administration and one member-at-large along with the Pastor and the Chair of the Pastoral Council.

Under the direction of the Steering Group a number of Working Groups have also been established. Focus areas include Communications, Finance, Design, Demographics, and Buildings/Property. This work is ongoing and supported by a coordinator, Frank Capstick.

It is important to note that Pastoral Council has received further information for consideration from both parish and diocesan sources. This includes a document titled "*Considerations*" received from a group of parishioners who made a presentation during a Pastoral Council meeting. Pastoral Council referred this document to the Steering Group for further deliberation.

The Steering Group is committed to completing its work in a timely manner. Although no final date as been established, it is anticipated that it will take a number of months to complete a final report. The Steering Group will create this report that will form the basis from which Pastoral Council will put forth recommendations. It is expected that these recommendations will need to have the fullest possible support of the parishioners of Saint Leonard. The recommendations will focus on the future requirements for worship space and other gathering spaces to best meet the pastoral needs of the parish. The Steering Group has and will continue to provide updates on a regular and ongoing basis primarily through the weekly Sunday bulletin. A longer update will be available again by mid-to-late June.