

Holy Trinity Building Project May Benefit Community

By Anne Trautner

Holy Trinity Catholic Church, located at 331 Main St. in Kewaskum, is planning to build a community center that will house a gymnasium and possibly a kitchen and gathering space.

As it goes forward with its plans, the parish would like input from the community in planning the space.

"We are trying to do this so it will work for the whole area," said parishioner Jim Wessing. "There is probably a lot of need in the community. If there are groups that need space, members can come to us so we can incorporate their needs into the design.

"Maybe there are people from the library or the Junior Women's Club, maybe the village has some needs. What about things like 4-H, FFA, piano recitals or club teams that need a space to practice? People should let us know if they want to be part of the planning," Wessing said.

Holy Trinity hopes to start building in spring 2016, with the building completed sometime next fall. Most likely, the parish will hire an architect within the next week, Wessing said.

So that the building will better serve the entire community, parish leaders would like community members to be brought into the building project planning sessions.

"If we get the preliminary plan drawn, and we get approval in October, then the architect will begin

working on the final plan. Once they do the final plan, it's pretty permanent," Wessing said.

Anyone from the community who would like to give input into the Holy Trinity building project should notify the Holy Trinity parish office at (262) 626-2860 by Oct. 1.

Planting Seeds

Several months ago, the Rev. Edwin Kornath, pastor of Holy Trinity, attended a school basketball game at St. Matthew's in Campbellsport.

As he walked into the gym, Kornath thought to himself, "This is nice, what if we had something like this."

One of the teachers was behind Kornath and said prophetically, "Oh, Father, we should have a gym! We should build a gym."

A couple weeks later, an anonymous donation of \$750,000 was made for the parish to build a gym.

"It is how the Spirit worked," Kornath said. "That \$750,000 plus everyone else's contributions are all little seeds we are planting in the Lord's vineyard. It shows that people love their faith, they love their church."

Holy Trinity School has been using an exercise room in the church basement for its physical education classes and its basketball and volleyball teams practice in Kewaskum School District gyms.

In addition to needing a gym, Holy Trinity has developed other space needs over the past 25 to 30 years, Wessing said

The parish, which is made up of 850 families, would like to have a cafeteria for the school as well as for funeral lunches and other events. Additional space for parish offices and meetings is also needed.

"I guess Holy Trinity always had a dream of having a gymnasium, but we certainly wanted to go beyond just a gym, so that is the vision of the parish center," Kornath said.

The parish has outgrown its current space, especially on Wednesday evening for the religious education program, Kornath said.

"We have so many kids, and we run two shifts in the program, and every space is accounted for. We fill every classroom, we have a group in the church, in the church basement, in the gathering space. I had my high school CCD class right here in my office, so we do need room," Kornath said.

How much the parish is able to build depends on the amount of money raised.

A basic parish center that houses a gymnasium, bathrooms and locker rooms, but no kitchen, cafeteria or offices, would cost approximately \$1.2 million, Wessing said.

The parish complete wish list has a price tag of about \$2.65 million, Wessing said, and includes things such as an upgraded kitchen, a cafeteria, new parish and school offices, parking lot resurfacing, technology upgrades, educational improvements and an emergency reserve fund.

ioners were surveyed through interviews and focus groups.

"We were kind of trying to take the temperature and see what the overall mood is," Filips said. "Usually it's good if your leadership has really been talking with people and collaborating and having meetings all the way through the process. Overall, their parish was very happy with the plans for the project."

About 91 percent of those surveyed supported the plan for the parish center.

"You are looking for at least two-thirds, so that's very good," Filips said. "This building project team is really doing things right. They are meeting often, they are taking feedback from parishioners, they are communicating well with the parishioners, they are really on top of things. It's an exciting project, and it sounds like there is a lot of support for it."

Still, there may not be enough support for the parish to fund everything on its wish list.

"What we've been hearing from the parishioners is they support the parish center; they don't support it at the level of the case statement, the \$2.65 million," Wessing said.

The feasibility report shows that there should be enough support to raise between \$1.8 and \$2 million, Wessing said, so the parish will have to decide whether to alter the project slightly or to come back and run another campaign three or four years from now, Wessing said.

Building Process

Holy Trinity parish, which was founded in 1861, is part of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The archdiocese has a set procedure to follow for building projects.

Holy Trinity's process officially started in April when Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome ListECKI gave the parish approval to do a feasibility study.

Mark Filips, president of VisionWorks, a firm in Omaha, Neb., that specializes in capital campaigns, coordinated the study. Nearly 120 parish-

Kornath and parishioner Joel Fleishman will take the next step in the building process on Aug. 13 as they go before the archdiocesan building commission to seek approval to hire an architect.

The parish hopes to begin running a capital campaign in October so that construction can begin next spring.

"It certainly will be a boost for Holy Trinity, as well as the entire community too. It's always good to see something being built at the skyline. Really, anytime we see a shovel in the ground, that's obviously a sign of progress," Kornath said.

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