



BUILDING A NEW CHURCH

*"The whole world is your temple, O God, shaped to resound with your name.
Yet you also allow us to dedicate to your service places designed for your worship.
With hearts full of joy we consecrate to your glory this work of our hands, this house of prayer."*
Preface for the Dedication of a Church

Vision Statement for our New Church Building

Engaged in prayer, study and discussion, we as a parish, desire to build a new church building. For forty years our current building has served the people of Fayetteville who have built up the Catholic Community as a church built of living stones. The original purpose of the current church was to temporarily function for worship and to later serve our community as a gym when the permanent church building could be built. We feel its limitations especially in regards to lighting, distance and sound concerns. We do see this structure however, continuing to serve the community, as a much needed larger social hall in our master site plan for the parish campus.

As Catholics at Saint Patrick, church means the "People of God." We are an active community in our worship and in our ministries, including our parish school. We reach out to a diverse and mobile people who constitute our parish and we try to offer a living presence of Christ to our wider community. Catholic identity, diversity and openness to the visitor shall mark our new facility as a reflection of our values and goals. We desire a dignified new church of classic design; a fixed point for our sacramental encounter with God, and a sign of our communal

identity in Christ. We pledge to continue and expand upon our parish mission which cannot be contained by buildings alone.

The arrangement of our new church shall include a gathering space (narthex) to facilitate human interaction before and after our worship. We already experience the desire to form community relationships, but because of our lack of space we are limited in the present church building. Thus, the narthex will allow our members and visitors to move from individuals coming to church to a community prepared for worship. Ideally, this ample narthex will lead to the new church and also to the new social hall remodeled from our present church building. We will plan that all entrances into the new church will flow from the parking areas into the narthex to allow it to be a true place of gathering for one community in faith. The narthex will include a provision for audio speakers and will also have visual access to the church worship space. This will allow a place for parents, when needed during Mass, to take small children and stay connected to the liturgical celebration. We see the use of doors or moveable walls between this narthex space and the church as facilitating the use of the narthex as an overflow space that will allow us to accommodate larger numbers. Necessary support spaces for sacristies, restrooms, storage and hospitality/brides rooms will be designed into the building.

We plan to locate the baptismal font at the entrance to the nave (seating area). By marking our entrance into the church worship space, the font will be on axis with the altar, and will remind us of how we are initiated into the sacramental life of the Church. Its location at the entrance will also allow the font to be encountered by all. It will be used as the one source for baptismal water so that as the assembly gathers into the nave, all will be able to bless themselves and so be reminded of their baptismal commitment. In keeping with the directives of our diocese and the ancient Tradition of our Church, this font will have the appropriate provision for the baptism of infants and be large enough for the immersion of adults. Reconciliation Chapels will be located near the font and will include natural lighting to enhance the sacramental celebration of God's mercy and forgiveness.

The arrangement of the seating in the nave shall convey the "image of a gathered assembly..." By arranging the seating of the assembly around the sanctuary, we will insure participation and good sightlines to all of the actions of our liturgical worship. Though designed for 1000 people, this will allow our parish community to be seated in closer proximity to the altar, ambo and presider's chair than in our current setting. For seating, we envision the use of padded pews with kneelers. The altar platform will be raised and handicapped accessible. Around the perimeter of the nave seating will be a walkway or lower "ambulatory" to allow movement around the space and offer another place for parents to take smaller children during the liturgy. The ambulatory may offer possibilities for devotional art and shrines that are a part of the church but not in competition with the foci of altar, ambo, presider's chair and font. The design of the church shall provide for ample natural light and care will be taken to control glare. Care will be taken with the exterior wall facing Village Drive to ensure that it presents a pleasing, sacred image to the street.

Music ministry shall be planned to be located as a part of the assembly, but in a position to lead congregational singing as well. The placement and the appropriate sized pipe organ will be considered in the design and planning of the worship space. A quality sound system and good natural acoustic is a high priority in this project to enhance congregational singing and the

spoken word. Provisions for the hearing impaired will also be included in our plans. Consideration will be given to multimedia capabilities for our sacred space.

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel, in accordance with good liturgical practice and the directives of our diocese, will be designed for private prayer and devotion to the Eucharist. The chapel will be located in such a way that the tabernacle containing the reserved Eucharist will be given due honor by being visually prominent and accessible to the assembly. The design for this placement will be done in such a way so as not to compromise appropriate attention to the liturgical actions at the altar. Provisions for this chapel will include the possibility of entering it directly from outside to further enhance its devotional use.

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel will also be connected to a smaller chapel for 100 that will be used for daily Mass, as well as small weddings and funerals.

The liturgical furnishings for the entire new church building shall be harmoniously designed as a group. They shall relate to the architectural design of the church and will be made with quality materials. Their design and materials shall render them able to bear the weight of the sacraments they serve.

The liturgical artwork for the church will enhance our church worship space and will offer opportunities for private prayer and devotion. We see a desire in the parish to represent our Catholic identity not only in the design of the building but also in all of the artworks created for our new church building. We are committed to quality works of art that will honor our patron, St. Patrick in his ministry of evangelization. Time will be taken to explore our veneration of Mary, the Mother of God, in order to find a universal expression of Our Lady that will speak to all members of our parish. The historical place of our parish as a “mother” church of Catholicism in North Carolina will be considered. The multi-cultural make up and the presence of the military members in our community shall be reflected in diverse images of the Communion of Saints to be included in our liturgical art. Consideration will be given in the design of the new church building to incorporating the stained glass and other appropriate liturgical art from the current church building.

Vesting and working sacristies will also be planned in such a way so as to provide ample and accessible preparatory space for both liturgical ministers and for the other working elements important to the celebration of the liturgy. A connection to the current music suite will also be planned, with consideration given to future expansion when needed.

The environment around our parish buildings and parking areas are also to be developed in such a way as to emphasize the prominent entry point into our new church building. Provisions for the Easter Vigil will include an area for the Easter fire that will allow the community to gather there to begin this foundational celebration of the liturgical year. The placement and expansion of our parish columbarium, as well as planning for exterior gardens and shrine areas will also be a part of our master plan for the new church site.

Reviewed by Advisory Group on _____
Published on March 17, 2006