

# **Architect Steering Committee February 12, 2010**

## **-Meeting Minutes -**

### **Steering Committee Members Present**

Kurt Adler, Kim Bakic, Jim Caldarola, Deacon Ken Donohue, Shirley Germaine, Kathy Harte and Katie Reed.

Also present: Fr. Tom and Mr. Bruce Williams, Principal, Black and White Studio Architects

### **Business Discussed**

Meeting began at 7:00pm with prayer. Bruce Williams reviewed with us the areas we had previously identified at “problems needing a solution.” He added his own thoughts, as well. Bruce then shared the following thoughts:

- a. Some good things about our worship space: sloping floor and great opportunities for natural light.

### **Problem Areas Identified**

- a. Space is not well-detailed.
- b. Lighting is both too dim and uses “everyday” fixtures.
- c. Color palette: We currently have too many colors competing for attention. Profound change can be introduced with simply using fewer colors.
- d. Sanctuary currently has too much competing in the small space allotted.
- e. The current altar is undersized in dimension and the baptismal font competes in size. The altar should be the central symbol in the church. It does not speak so as currently sized.
- e. Choir/musician space does not work well. Currently has three keyboards. Existing multi-levels can be a safety hazard.
- f. No usable handicap access to the sanctuary.
- g. The “room behind the altar” is not properly utilized.
- h. There is no transition space from the foyer to the church. Upon entering from one set of doors a person travels only about 5 feet before entering the church proper. Space very “busy.”

- i. Institutional windows (not “light apertures.”)
- j. Doors from the parking lot and especially doors into the church should have some detail, letting you know you are entering a special place.
- k. There should be some clear demarcation that you are transitioning from secular to sacred space.

### **Conceptual Design Process**

Bruce presented both a to-scale floor layout of the sanctuary, nave and foyer and an architectural model to advance a concept of creating both a more sacramental church interior as well as a “transition space” from the foyer to the church.

Considerable conversation followed as Bruce put forth a concept that would make the church more inviting and warm by addressing the sterile-looking ceiling and having the eye focus more towards the sanctuary by incorporating translucent glass behind the altar.

Could the space in the “room behind the altar” be used more effectively by shifting adoration to this space while allowing for sacramentals such as votive candles? Space may currently be undersized.

Additional conversation centered around location of baptismal font, with the majority opinion that it should remain in its present location.

Next part of conceptual design process will look at current space occupied by the confessional, adoration chapel, and foyer.

### **Next Steps**

Steering Committee unanimously approved the concept presented and Bruce will use remaining 15 hours to add more detail.

Fr. Tom will bring concept to the Archbishop for comment.

Next meeting will be Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.