

***Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church  
2901 East Huffman Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516  
345-4466***

January 14, 2010

Dear Member(s) of our Saint Elizabeth's Family,

Happy New Year! I hope this New Year holds much happiness for you. I'm writing to keep you informed as we continue in our parish/school strategic planning process, now in its second year. As a brief review, we have completed two planning processes (one for our parish and another for our school), naming our new Vision, Mission and Value Statements and establishing specific objectives and action items across the life of our parish/school community. You can review these plans as well as read progress reports through our parish web site (with a link to our school) at [www.akseas.net](http://www.akseas.net). We are now ready to take some concrete steps towards implementing our strategic plans and I want to be certain that I keep you informed in advance of each step and that you are able to monitor our progress and ask questions at any point.

Many of the specific action steps in our plans do not involve any capital costs, while others do. In our parish plan, under the area of "Liturgy and Worship," we received considerable feedback from parishioners on a desire to update the interior of our church in order to reflect a more sacramental presence, yet not lose the simplicity enjoyed by so many. We held two "town hall" meetings to more accurately determine parish sentiments. We successfully raised sufficient funds through *One Bread, One Body*, our Archdiocesan Annual Appeal, to hire a liturgical architect. We have selected Mr. Bruce Williams, of Black and White Studio Architects, who will guide us through a conceptual design process to establish priorities for updating our worship and common-use spaces. Bruce met with our parish Architect Steering Committee last week in order to begin turning your feedback into concrete ideas of what our worship space could look like. Following this conceptual design phase, we will return to the parish-at-large with drawings in order to ask for more feedback. Once this design work is complete we will have our "roadmap" for any future liturgical updates and we will fund each step as we are able.

We will soon follow with a similar process for our school. Again, many parts of our plan do not involve capital costs; however some do. Our school building is 30 years old and is long overdue for a significant remodel to address safety, mechanical and environmental concerns. The Facilities Subcommittee of our School Board is working to identify and prioritize needs and we plan to use the services of Bruce Williams on this project, as well. In addition to providing an excellent Catholic education for more than 160 children, our school building also serves well as Sunday faith formation and multi-use space for parish events as our parish family continues to grow. Updating and expanding this space will serve both communities well.

I'll be back in touch with you later this year as we continue in our effort to plan for the future. I'm personally grateful for your past and future prayerful and financial support of our parish and school. It remains a joy to serve as your Pastor. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 317-9042.

Sincerely,

Fr. Tom