

# **Feedback from Town Hall Meetings and Survey Responses**

## **Worship Space – Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish**

### **1. What does “having a sacramental presence in our worship area” mean to you?**

- \* Our worship space is a holy atmosphere as it is now, for me. We are focusing on the second person, Our Lord Jesus, but in seeing him we can also thank Creator Father God and the Holy Spirit.
- \* I'd like to see the tabernacle moved into the main church area.
- \* An environment that is less sterile and more conducive to encouraging spirituality.
- \* Sharing love within the SEAS community and extending that love to the world at large. This means being one with God and humanity, through love and justice.
- \* Don't know.
- \* I believe there is only one “sacramental presence” in our church and that is the Eucharist. It resides in the tabernacle (the red candle or light announces it). It is also present during the Mass. I don't confuse a bunch of statues with the “Sacramental Presence.”
- \* I'm uncertain of this question. I thought we had a sacramental presence in our worship area. Our main sanctuary is used for choir rehearsals, etc. and if one wants to visit the Blessed Sacrament, it's great that there is a chapel aside to visit as is.
- \* Lots of people praying... a community of all ages singing and praying together. Everyone welcome and participating and using their gifts.
- \* Presence of statues/pictures as reminders of to whom we pray.
- \* The Eucharist.
- \* Ability for us to show reverence, praise, thanksgiving, gratitude, tradition, spiritual nourishment and peace.
- \* Very important! We have a beautiful church but I feel the Blessed Mother and the Holy Family need to have a visible presence. Families with children need to instruct and enforce discipline in a sacred space.
- \* Having active participation in our worship area from our church members, enthusiastic worship.
- \* Not sure what this exactly is.
- \* Focus on the altar, word and Eucharist. With having Christ at the center light. Soaring simplicity of the walls that lift the spirit. Peace. The community, the Body of Christ.

- \* It means aiding my worship visually in order to more deeply experience my relationship with God and His son Jesus.
- \* I think “Sacramental Presence” is a very personal issue. I think it is what you make of it. I assume new comers may be at a loss until the sacristan exits after communion.
- \* The Sacramental Presence is there for me in the Mass as a community. In the tabernacle at adoration and in the empty church as I feel Gods presence waiting to be joined by the individual and the community.
- \* Having quiet respect. It bothers me that people in the foyer talk during Mass, including some of the hospitality people. I have seen people get chairs and sit out there when there is space in the pews. Also some readers dress inappropriately.
- \* To me, a sacramental presence means that the worship area focuses on the altar as the center of our sacrifice and sacred meal, as well as on the honored place for the Word. The community which gathers to celebrate the sacrament is there to become the Body of Christ together, so the worship area should also be a welcoming, celebratory and sacred place for everyone to feel at home. Eucharist-Word-Community- They should all be accommodated in a sacred space.
- \* As you know better than we do, many churches have the Blessed Sacrament in a chapel not directly in the main church. When we converted the old space to a Blessed Sacrament Chapel, one of the major considerations was to provide a special place for adoration, which would be less disturbed when all of all the other activities, such as choir practice, rehearsals, etc., are occurring in the main church. We believe our existing configuration has been very adequate in addressing that need.
- \* Reverence
- \* Inspiration
- \* Focus on the Altar, the Word and the Eucharist
- \* Simplicity in design, not too busy
- \* Cohesiveness, things flow together, not obtrusive, not distracting to the mind
- \* Christ centered
- \* Something that lifts your hearts and minds to prayer
- \* Light and uplifting (brightness)
- \* Quiet and silence – sense of peace
- \* Prayerfulness
- \* An area where you can get your mind focused
- \* Tradition that brings back memories and peacefulness

- \* Having tabernacle in main chapel
- \* Statues of Blessed Mother and St. Joseph present in main chapel. Apostle's creed discussion needs that presence for worship; provide anchor
- \* Sense of holiness and felt presence of Christ
- \* Prayer more prevalent
- \* Prayerful
- \* Avoid distractions
- \* Quiet space/time before and after mass
- \* Not in symbolism but in community that gathers to celebrate the sacraments
- \* Simplicity
- \* Physical space leads to community; "smells and bells" "God is here."
- \* Drawn to cross as focus.
- \* Feeling "home"
- \* Simplicity vs. Rome
- \* Issue: New people don't know background and symbolism of elements in chapel (e.g. Stained Glass). Need better explanation of environment. Need to know who sponsored stations, history of windows, why blank walls, banners, etc.
- \* Have all community in one room. People out in foyer seem isolated and disconnected.
- \* It sounds like it means having the tabernacle in the main church. It could also imply having more statues and icons.

## **2. What do you appreciate the most about our current worship space? Why?**

- \* All of it.
- \* Openness and simplicity.
- \* Just fine.
- \* The focus on our magnificent cross and the altar. No matter where you are in the church the focus remains the same. To some the cross and Christ's figure is overly large. Not so! The figure of Christ is exactly six feet tall. You are drawn to it and the altar.

- \* That we adore Jesus every hour, giving Him glory, honor and praise. As is due to Him. He died to give us life.
- \* I think it is bright, large, open and cheerful.
- \* The natural and usually abundant light.
- \* It is warm and clean with a strong focus on Christ through the symbol of His death and the focus on His resurrection as expressed through the sacrament of the Eucharist.
- \* Priests, they share the word and spirit.
- \* Please keep it the same size. Any larger and we should just build a cathedral and we already have those. The larger the space the more theatrical it feels.
- \* It is bright, beautiful stained glass... I can see everyone! Kids are welcome and can go in the lobby and if crying and still see the service through the windows.
- \* Openness and availability of rooms for classes.
- \* Wide open and the crucifix.
- \* The crucifix. The sloped floor and circular pew arrangement.
- \* It works.
- \* Artwork behind altar, vibrant, never boring. Also the hanging murals.
- \* I like the simplicity, the focus on the church. The altar where the Mass takes place each day, there is no extra "stuff" for distractions.
- \* Isn't cluttered, very open feel.
- \* The color and story that are introduced at different seasons. The hangings and flower arrangements are done with a loving, prayerful approach by members using their talents and gifts. The story of our baptism by water and spirit told in the stained glass windows on either side of the altar. The placements of the pews, choir and instruments making us all part of the whole.
- \* Open, high ceilings and bright. It invites a light, joyous heart.
- \* I think it is fine. I miss the smell of burning candles.
- \* I love the beautiful simplicity, the central crucifix and altar with the windows on both sides, evocative of scripture.
- \* The slanted floor makes the altar visible to all. Because the reverence is missing, the space doesn't seem "like a church." That's why the adoration chapel is so special.

- \* Although I would not be opposed to the introduction of liturgical art of some kind, I do appreciate the simplicity of style and line in our current space. It is uncluttered and focuses clearly towards the altar. I appreciate that it was designed with the floor slanted downward to enable people a better view. I appreciate our crucifix while wishing that it could be much smaller and better proportioned than it turned out to be. I like the semicircular design which speaks of inclusivity.
- \* Expanse of simple white walls
- \* Pieces that are brought in (i.e. hangings and altar decorations) that brings focus to the altar and are current with the season. They are appreciated because they are gifts from parishioners created in prayer.
- \* The orientation of the pews. The curvature brings focus to the altar and gives a sense of community.
- \* It doesn't make you feel isolated, it has an open feeling.
- \* The Crucifix
- \* The stained glass windows plus the ceiling window brings in natural light, and the color is beautiful.
- \* The stained glass of the Baptism of Water with the blue on the right with the Holy Spirit with the fire on the left.
- \* Simplicity of the space lends to the ability to meditate; it is very calming to the spirit.
- \* As you walk in you see the art and the colors and without words, you have a feeling of the Liturgy.
- \* The floor sloping gives a feeling of inclusivity.
- \* The foyer design. You still feel like you are included in the mass even if you are in the foyer, you can still see and feel part of the Liturgy.
- \* The seating layout also lends to the feeling of community, you can see everyone.
- \* Priest able to move around during homilies.
- \* The Sanctuary is a nice community space that is flexible for other activities.
- \* Lack of distractions from other parts of the church, helps maintain focus.
- \* Location sloped seating
- \* Like choir "right there", blessed by presence.
- \* Baptismal font, beginning of our journey, all part of area and one of first things seen when coming in to main chapel.

- \* Would like little to change. Minor enhancements vs. major change.
- \* Simplicity
- \* How wall can change with banners, etc.
- \* Art enhancement behind Altar.
- \* Lots of light
- \* Crucifix and light shining down on it. Light of Christ before our eyes.
- \* Stained glass.
- \* Don't change anything on rear windows that would impact side walls. Shadow and light is magnificent, leaves, snow falling, etc. Walls are beautiful screens.
- \* Greenery in chapel for perpetual adoration.
- \* I love the crucifix, which is the central icon of our faith. I appreciate the absence of multiple icons and statues, which in some churches become busy and cluttered. They also require a very personal taste. I love the honor and beauty given to the tabernacle, though it might belong in the sanctuary.

### **3. What, in particular, would you like to have remain the same?**

- \* I would especially hope that our worship areas remains uncluttered and retains its Vatican II feel. I think the introduction of some forms of art of a certain style would not blend with the rather modernistic feel of our worship space. Any artwork would have to be carefully evaluated to fit in. Not too many goo-gaas and frills! Mostly I want our worship area to remain focused on the altar.
- \* Keep the tabernacle in the adoration chapel. It is a powerful statement when the Eucharistic Minister carries the chalice to and from the chapel during mass.
- \* Everything.
- \* The space directly behind the altar, including Jesus on the cross.
- \* Open space at the back of the church, behind the last row of pews.
- \* Leave the space the way it is with the altar as the focus.
- \* The chapel.
- \* The crucifix.
- \* Main church area for Mass.
- \* All of it.

- \* I'm bothered by the plain old windows in the front of the church. What about a subtle stain glass, maybe a textured pattern, so to look more like a church. How about making our exterior window trim match in one color? We have brown and white trim and the exterior lacks unity.
- \* Priests.
- \* The present structure meets my personal desire and offers true potential for a community in function as one in Christ.
- \* The natural light.
- \* I love the baptismal area.
- \* The area in the Eucharistic placement center, to all who comes in to worship. And the flowers.
- \* All of it. The simplicity and symmetry of our church is inspiring. The focus is where it should be, the cross and the altar.
- \* Everything, except "reading" the bulletin after communion, most people in the parish are literate.
- \* Until there is a plan (that includes choices) accompanied by catechists concerning any alternatives, I think that there should not be any changes. The plan should include consultation with a Catholic sacred space designer with a strong theological background. Any decorations should be included in a review by a designer with appropriate Catholic design experience.
- \* We are in the most difficult and uncertain economic period in decades, and perhaps in the history of our country. As we look at SEAS monthly shortfall in revenues versus expenses, we feel that to embark on a project to change, expand or add an addition to the church building at this time would be frivolous, inappropriate and a poor decision. During this tough time, SEAS could and should lead by example of good stewardship of its treasure.

**4. Is there some specific change that is important to you? Please identify what and why.**

- \* The altar is too small for the crucifix or vice versa, it is out of balance.
- \* More pews. There is a need for more special seating for those with physical impairments.
- \* Statues
- \* The Blessed Mother should have recognition in the Sanctuary. It would be nice to be able to gather around the Virgin Mother during the Rosary.
- \* Move the tabernacle behind the Altar
- \* A bust of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton is in the chapel but it is enclosed and it should be in a more prominent position in the worship area or a statue should be made and put in a prominent place.

- \* A wall hanging of the Blessed Mother and Joseph may be an option. They would be more flexible and easier to display in the Sanctuary.
- \* Concerns with statues changing the open, calm feeling of the Sanctuary. The area is not designed for statues. Statues could go in a day chapel. Many are not opposed to the idea of statues, but see it as a space/aesthetic issue. Many agree.
- \* Concern with the kind of statue. It may be difficult to find an appropriate space for private prayer. Perhaps in the day chapel.
- \* Must keep scale in mind due to the 22 ft tall ceilings in addition to the effect the slanted walls creates, making pieces seem bigger (i.e. the crucifix).
- \* Votive candles
- \* Candles are part of the heritage of the church. Votive candles help aid focus, and the prayers linger even after individuals are gone. They are an aid to spiritual development and prayer life.
- \* Provides ability to light a candle for someone, which provides comfort. Provides a sense of community because when you pass by a lit candle, you say a prayer for the person who lit the candle.
- \* Finding an appropriate space may be difficult plus the upkeep and safety issues related to candles should be kept in mind. Maybe the day chapel would be a more appropriate place.
- \* Candles have been shown to set off the fire system.
- \* Candles may be distracting in the worship area.
- \* The Sanctuary is an inappropriate place for candles due to the limited space and dripping wax issues.
- \* A day chapel that can contain candles would be a way to keep the sanctuary simple.
- \* Access to the confessional without having to go through the Adoration Chapel
- \* A larger altar.
- \* Large receptacle of holy water as you enter the sanctuary.
- \* Drop the piano down to the same depth as the organ because it blocks the window.
- \* The large speaker covers are too obvious. Try to blend them in better.
- \* The Sanctuary is too barren and boring; some color would be good during ordinary times (not just during a season). Quilted wall hangings would be a way to add color and offer beautiful works that are liturgical. Lay people's artistic talent should be brought into the sanctuary in the form of wall art.
- \* Add large banners with single word to meditate on (e.g. Joy, Truth, etc.)

- \* Bring back lighting panel to make use of existing lighting capabilities and create more lighting options.

- \* Enhanced lighting above crucifix

- \* Paint side walls. One side with shadows of people, trees without leaves leading, growing feeding up to water (stained glass) progressing towards crucifix. On other side trees with leaves, shadows of people, progressing together towards and passing through fire leading to Holy Family near baptismal font would be nice

Choir, Organ, Music area:

- \* Less cluttered, simple choir/music/organ area.

- \* Safety hazard around step-down to organ.

- \* Complex choir/music environment with mikes, etc.

- \* Aesthetics of choir/music area

Statues:

- \* More inside and outside main chapel

- \* Respectful placement is important

- \* Use icons vs. statues in keeping with modern style.

- \* Large crucifix. Statues may get lost

- \* St. Patrick's has statue of Holy Family is off to right-hand side balanced with votives and tabernacle to the left.

- \* St. Andrew's has statue of Joseph and John on either side of cross.

- \* Have statues, but don't distract from focus on cross.

- \* Statues near stained glass windows.

- \* Concerned about statues getting lost if near choir area.

- \* Simplistic statuary. Don't over-do

- \* Statue of Holy Family near baptismal font would be nice.

- \* Statue of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton somewhere more visible.

- \* Want votive candles:

- \* Want to remember, say prayer for and light candle for loved ones.
- \* Peaceful and reassuring to light candles and pray.
- \* Put tabernacle and Eucharist in main chapel
- \* Blessed Mother is in foyer alcove vs. main chapel. People visiting in foyer have their back to her. Should be placed in more respectful place. Currently not in place that inspires devotion.
- \* Improve aesthetics of front vents and speakers. Idea: Have statues cover vents or speakers. Also paint large speaker covers (Joseph and Mary)
- \* Just air, please.
- \* Move the tabernacle to the sanctuary near the altar.
- \* Need votive candles so people can pray for the dying, sick etc. Gives comfort to those praying. Statues especially in chapel. Mary brings us to her son Jesus through prayer.
- \* I like things as they are. The only changes I would want are ones that are required (or at least okayed) by canon law, etc. I don't know of any but perhaps others do.
- \* Maybe, "quiet please, worship service" signs on back doors. Could part of the foyer be enclosed as a cry room?
- \* Please don't change anything.
- \* No
- \* No, we have a huge crucifix, a bust of St. Elizabeth, a statue of Mary and Jesus, gorgeous windows, Holy Spirit fonts for holy water and beautiful Stations of the Cross. Don't need anymore.
- \* No
- \* I would like to have the tabernacle in our main worship space; people don't know where they are genuflecting.
- \* Real flowers or no flowers. We don't like fake flowers.
- \* Nope
- \* Just a thought! What is the present situation of the cost of our lighting? Might we be able to reduce power cost with more energy efficient lighting? That maybe a question also for heating. Can we improve efficiency? What about an audit/evaluation by a professional energy team?
- \* None that is imperative. I would really like a cross with the resurrected Christ. After all, we do believe in the resurrection and it is the basis of our evangelization.

- \* I feel strongly that the tabernacle should be in the main church and not off to the side where it hardly meets the requirements (of prominence, etc., as Father stated then) in my view.
- \* I do feel an area to light candles is important and needed.
- \* None
- \* Get rid of the folding chairs.
- \* Less emphasis on the material things. I think that money could be better spent on people in need. Stop reading the bulletin after communion.
- \* A larger surface for the altar. Better speakers for the foyer. A big water presence at the entrance. Consideration of a Marian presence in art form like the work done on glass by Alicia Gilbert for the current worship space.
- \* I like our worship space the way it is and I am not yearning for a change, but I do think the large wall on the east could accommodate some form of artwork. The only fear would be that because of the size of the wall it may become the focal point rather than the altar. The banners made by Art and Environment are lovely. Perhaps even another window higher up on the east wall, even stained glass one with images of St. Elizabeth or other saints, might contribute to the sacred sense without being distracting.
- \* I would suggest changes made to the Pope John Paul II Chapel be made in a more collaborative manner than have previously been made. I think we have introduced too much clutter, too much reading material, mismatched furniture, etc., into the Chapel and have destroyed some of its quiet, meditative atmosphere. We should clean it out and declutter it. Although having some spiritual reading sometimes helps in prayer, people should not be encouraged by large volumes of books to think that this is a reading room. It's a place for prayer and meditation. We need to keep it simple, very simple. Although I have no objection to the statue of the Blessed Mother that was brought into the chapel, which was not done in any kind of collaborative way. Why are we spending so much time soliciting opinion about our worship area when decisions about our chapel are made with no input from anyone?

**5. There has been a suggestion that a day chapel to accommodate small weddings, funerals and daily mass would allow a more intimate space for those functions and could also reduce utility costs. Is the addition of a day chapel something you see as important to the community?**

- \* It would be nice; I like the chapel at St. Patrick's. But could we afford to build and maintain both?
- \* I would like a day chapel but I'm not prepared to say it's important to the community.
- \* No, we have staffing rooms if a small service is needed.
- \* I would like to have an adoration chapel separate from the church after our building debt is retired.
- \* No

- \* While we have limited basis for judging the suggestion about a day chapel for smaller functions, it's hard to conceive how doing some type of construction project, could be amortized successfully by a reduction in utility costs. The new space would still have to have water, sewer, heat and electricity.
- \* No to day chapel. With the economy the way it is too much money now.
- \* This sounds lovely, though I wouldn't say it is important, especially in tough economic times. If such an addition could be quickly paid off by lower utility costs, I'd be more enthusiastic.
- \* No, can't see where it would be without cutting into the main worship area.
- \* Only if it were a beautiful, thought out small space. It would have to be separate building or it wouldn't reduce utility costs anyway. I like the tabernacle where it is, near the altar.
- \* I like the idea.
- \* No
- \* I don't know how much this new space would reduce utility costs. Would it just be an extra space to heat/care for/maintain?
- \* Useful, yes.
- \* For such infrequent special occasions, it does not seem worth the expense especially when we still owe on our main facility.
- \* Depends on costs and we do have crowded masses already.
- \* Not necessary, nor do I see where one could be without major renovations. Maybe in a downstairs room?
- \* No
- \* No
- \* It might seem like a nice amenity but it does not seem like a high priority.
- \* I personal do not see this as a need and t may divert us from the present unity of the SEAS community.
- \* I love the idea of it, if it is economically feasible and depending on its ambience, perhaps it could be used for the perpetual adoration chapel.
- \* Where could it possibly be placed?
- \* No. We have a splendid worship place, use it. I have been to very large gatherings and very small gatherings in our worship space and they both work well.
- \* What happened to St. Paul Miki Chapel? (used to be downstairs, under rectory)

- \* Yes if it fills the need for smaller functions coupled with the economy. Yes if it can be a place where those of our community can experience their spirituality in some of the ways that they remember as important. I think there is an opportunity to create a space that moves from history into the more simple worship space of our sanctuary. An appropriate service could be very powerful, if done right, with discernment and prayer. No quick moves.
- \* Having grown up in a rural area, in a mission parish. I've always been drawn to chapel/small churches. It is one of the reasons I love going to daily mass (when I can) to Holy Spirit Retreat Center. I love the small chapel. Why can't we leave the Blessed Sacrament, tabernacle in the Chapel room (perhaps in the alcove) and still have a small altar for mass for those small occasions as daily mass?
- \* Don't want to make the worship space smaller in order to have a day chapel.
- \* May be nice to have a smaller space than the Sanctuary for smaller gatherings like weddings or funerals. It will help pull people together, creating a closer feeling of community.
- \* If small groups sit closer together in the Sanctuary they can feel more cohesive, plus the lights can be dimmed/more focused to provide a more intimate setting.
- \* May provide a more practical way of celebrating the Sacrament daily.
- \* Could solve multiple issues including providing space for statues, candles and well thought out art. Would require a sacred space planner to help create a design that provides unity to everyone's different spiritual needs.
- \* A concern is the cost. From a spiritual perspective it would be wonderful.
- \* Loss of intimacy regarding the Perpetual Adoration location.
- \* If there was a separate day chapel, you could be away from the people coming and going from the church, which is distracting.
- \* Simple day chapel that would use less lighting, resources during day Mass
- \* Good idea to have smaller chapel for small weddings and funerals. Everyone doesn't need a big auditorium for wedding.
- \* Love idea, didn't know it was in cards.
- \* Other churches use day chapel for adoration and also smaller events.
- \* Our main chapel is small so it is like day chapels in many other places.
- \* Not sure expense would justify savings of energy, etc. Lower on priority list.
- \* Like to see seating solved before day chapel. Many in support
- \* Pay for this building first before day chapel.

- \* Good idea for small funeral, small wedding. Some people feel lost in larger space.
- \* Nice but not worth big effort. Idea: Could something be done with lighting? E.g. lower the lighting on sides to create illusion of smaller chapel in center focal area. Illusion of smaller chapel in larger space without large construction cost. Could be done with lighting panel. Was effective before. Only two banks of pews to either side of Altar others were dark.
- \* Like idea of day chapel.

**6. If a day chapel were added and it became necessary to reevaluate the location of the tabernacle, how would you feel (or what would you think) about relocating the tabernacle into the main worship area?**

- \* Must be in a prominent space, conspicuous, beautifully decorated, and easy to worship.
- \* It is okay to move to the altar.
- \* If it is moved to the sanctuary it may require posture changes within the sanctuary, including genuflection while entering or exiting the Sanctuary.
- \* It was originally in the Sanctuary about 3' from where the holy oil is and was then moved closer to the corner.
- \* If it is behind the altar, it is not visible – this may not be acceptable as it would no longer be conspicuous.
- \* It belongs close to the altar.
- \* Don't want it behind the altar, limits the ability to display art and affects the environment.
- \* Over where it used to be, on the credence table, may not be good because it is a very busy, high traffic area. May decrease the reverence towards the tabernacle over time.
- \* The day chapel could be built on the outside (South?) side with a sliding door between the sanctuary and the day chapel so the tabernacle could be viewed from either area.
- \* Very little written about location of tabernacle. Only required to comply with mind of church and bishop. Impossible to make universal law. Be where we "feel" it should be. tabernacle should be placed in part of church that is prominent, conspicuous, beautifully decorated, and suitable for prayer. According to Bishop, current location is fine, though emotionally we may want something different.
- \* Leave it where it is. Comfortable with space. Currently "part" of sanctuary as is.
- \* Holy place, don't need to change.
- \* Feel safe in room to the side. Like enclosed, small space.

- \* Seems out of people's focus. Needs to be closer to cross. More comfortable with it in the main chapel.
- \* Daily activities (school, choir, etc.) may interfere with reverence.
- \* No plan to bring area for Perpetual Adoration in main chapel.
- \* Monstrance and tabernacle not required to be together.
- \* Space for Perpetual Adoration can be moved away from tabernacle.
- \* Only one tabernacle allowed in church.
- \* Idea: Place tabernacle behind altar. Move space for perpetual adoration storage area behind altar. Make current space for perpetual adoration into cry room with confessionals. Knock out space behind altar.
- \* Keep in current space. Keep focus on Jesus.
- \* Like quiet adoration space.
- \* Like idea of tabernacle up front where in direction of genuflection.
- \* Worried that someone will trip when carrying tabernacle and Eucharist across chapel.
- \* Many people don't know background of ritualistic things. Need more communication and understanding of traditions and purpose.
- \* Would bringing tabernacle into church change environment? Answer: should not, but may generate a lot of discussion.
- \* Central focus of church is altar.
- \* I love the intimacy of the Blessed Sacrament in its present location. I know that I'd be more apt to drop in for a visit as is much more than in the main worship area, the closer to the Blessed Sacrament the better.
- \* I had forgotten it was once in the main worship area. I only remember Archbishop Hurley's concern about the appropriateness of the current placement, how it was done. My concern would be catechesis before a decision is made so there is a complete understanding of the history and the consequences of a move.
- \* No
- \* I do not believe we should add a day chapel. As long as adoration continues, why move the tabernacle? It works well where it is. But it would work well in the church as well.
- \* I've never been in a church where the tabernacle wasn't in the main worship area. I think ours should be moved.

- \* Love it!
- \* I have no concern about the relocation.
- \* If we moved the tabernacle to the main worship area, this would take away from the atmosphere we now enjoy and have.
- \* Not needed.
- \* This would be ok... I like the tabernacle to be more a part of the church and not separated out.
- \* Would not like this because of adoration hours only. Already distracting with choir practice and other events.
- \* Yes!
- \* No
- \* No problem.
- \* I don't like the idea of a day chapel.
- \* Shouldn't be in main area. Create another side area.
- \* I prefer the tabernacle in the space it is in now.
- \* I like the way it is now.
- \* No. A great part of adoration is the intimacy of the chapel. How could you adore in the main worship area with all that goes on? This would also need to be heated 24 hours a day, thus eliminating any savings.
- \* I used to feel strongly that it belonged in the sanctuary, but I've learned that it is not wrong to have it in a separate chapel. If it is truly a matter of taste, and if church guidelines allow it either place, I guess I don't have a strong opinion. I do appreciate the honor and importance it receives in either place.
- \* Yes
- \* Great!
- \* I would be overjoyed to have the tabernacle back in the church.
- \* I always appreciate the tabernacle be in front of us.
- \* No, they should be separate and distinct worship spaces.
- \* If a day chapel could be designed with glass so that the tabernacle could still be seen from the worship area, it would be nice. That way, if people are praying before the Blessed Sacrament, they

would also be visible and this would continue the witness value of that effort. If the tabernacle had to be relocated, I would not want it to be in the center of the altar but well off to the side, and I would not want it to affect the usage of our main worship area.

**7. Would you support replacing the folding chairs in the back of the worship space with an additional pew (while retaining a limited number of chairs to accommodate wheelchairs, walkers and other special needs)?**

- \* Yes
- \* Yes
- \* Yes if we have the money.
- \* Sure, I thought that was a definite plan.
- \* Yes
- \* This would be fine, but I feel the same on this as I do the day chapel. The folding chairs seem to work fine, and there is considerable cost to adding pews. Let's raise the money and give it to the poor.
- \* How expensive would this be? Why not eliminate those chairs, I see open pew space every Sunday.
- \* Absolutely.
- \* Yes!
- \* No!
- \* That might work.
- \* Why is this a high priority? If it is not broke, why fix it? What is the benefit/cost? Is this the best we use funds?
- \* Yes
- \* No
- \* Maybe one row of pews, but keep chairs next to back wall.
- \* Yes
- \* Yes
- \* I prefer the chairs, softer for those who have handicaps and for those who are physically challenged.
- \* Yes, this is a great idea.

- \* Yes
- \* Yes, I think the chairs look tacky. They should be removed. I think there could be a more classy way of handling wheelchairs, etc., other than folding chairs. They look cheap.
- \* Yes
- \* No!! Keep folding chairs, keep the expenses down!!
- \* I think another row of pews would be helpful if they allow enough room when sitting/kneeling. Additional parking would need to be investigated and the cost discussed.
- \* Yes, but what about the issue of safety? Would the fire department and insurance company approve? We had to vacate the church rapidly once before (when the church imploded).
- \* Definitely. Great idea.
- \* Concern that pews not get too close, enough space between pews should be kept to be comfortable.
- \* A 1.5" reduction in each row would allow an extra row for people with special needs.
- \* Keep the pews.
- \* An area should be reserved for special needs seating.
- \* Ensure that the slope on the pew legs is not dependent on floor location.
- \* Seating needs to be safe, legal and esthetically pleasing.
- \* Determine if parking is adequate to accommodate the increase in seating within the Sanctuary. New pews may require additional parking.
- \* Cushions on the last row of pews for people with back issues may be good. However, there are maintenance issues with cushions.
- \* Be on-time.
- \* Get rid of most folding chairs, provide more permanent seating. Scrunch seating closer if/when carpet removed.
- \* Provide space for people with special needs.
- \* Don't scrunch seats closer
- \* Seating must be safe, legal and aesthetically pleasing.
- \* Could add pew where chairs are right now but may not be aesthetically pleasing.

- \* Push pews forward, reduce current space between pews slightly (by an inch or so). Add additional row of pews when carpet removed.
- \* Permanent looking solution vs. folding chairs.
- \* Several not in favor of reducing space between pews.
- \* Holy Family cathedral pew to pew space is very narrow, not comfortable for most.
- \* Move forward but keep current pew spacing.
- \* Special needs must be accommodated.
- \* Some folding chairs may remain, but look nicer.
- \* Current idea is to put additional pews against back wall (vs. folding chairs). Builder of current pews says that back wall pews can be added without protruding more significantly (than folding chairs) from back wall.
- \* Flexible church chairs. Different options being considered. Accommodate special needs.

**8. Do you have any other ideas about the sacred worship space you would like to share?**

- \* Crying room
- \* Nice to have because parents aren't concerned about disturbing others.
- \* Nursery is available for 11:30 mass.
- \* Need more speakers in the Foyer to be able to adequately hear the Mass. With enhanced speakers. The foyer may be the answer to a crying room as long as parents take their children there.
- \* Maintenance can be a concern for a crying room, there does not seem to be as much respect for the room, leading to more of a mess made.
- \* People should not be forced to use a crying room.
- \* People should not feel separated from the mass/church community while in the crying room.
- \* Some families want to be outside and choose to be there.
- \* Some families purposely choose to be outside because they don't want to have to bring kids in and out.
- \* If a priority to create a cry room, must determine options.
- \* If we have cry room it needs to be clean.

- \* Sometimes cry rooms are not used (other places). Feel isolated. Space not well used.
- \* Cry room not always used based on what people see happening today.
- \* Sometimes cry room is so prominent and obvious that it may send message that kids aren't welcome.
- \* Put pew on other side of back windows as extension of space vs. separate room.
- \* Close doors. Issue: Are doors really designed to be open and shut without further distraction?
- \* Like to be reasonably quiet in main worship area but don't want families with children to feel unwelcome.
- \* Want space for people to go. Perhaps where food baskets are on other side of glass. Need kid pew (put sign there so others' don't sit there).
- \* If space for Perpetual Adoration moves, use that space.
- \* Use nursery.
- \* If we keep space for Perpetual Adoration where it is, make wooden frame backdrop in front of tabernacle higher.
- \* Replace carpet.
- \* Lower Monstrance because when kneeling people may get neck-aches.
- \* Remove blinds on windows of space for Perpetual Adoration to make more visually open to main chapel.
- \* None
- \* No
- \* Please, please...HVAC, air conditioning, ceiling fans... something to move the air, we are melting!
- \* I would like to see the Blessed Virgin in our worship area. I have seen a statue like replica of the holy family or just Blessed Virgin that are thin and hang on the wall.
- \* I really like the simplicity that we now have. The only other thought is a cry room, is that being considered? It might be a good time to reexamine the lack of a cry room. And no the lobby is not a cry room.
- \* More sacred objects, statues, banners, etc., to enrich the space.
- \* I would love to see a statue or two added of the Virgin Mary, the Holy Trinity or some other saints. I like the ability of votive candles being available to light in honor of someone as well.

- \* Leave as is.
- \* Not at the moment.
- \* Cry room that is sound proof, but not an added building. Possibly in foyer? This is probably too hard to do.
- \* Would like to have a statue of the Holy Family or Jesus with His Sacred Heart in our church.
- \* Adoration chapel is ok small, but need more seating availability, or rearrange seating. Chairs are uncomfortable if you have back problems. Maybe prop door from main area to chapel open during Saturday confessions. Constant open/closing is distracting. Make obvious sign inviting worshipers to enter, currently it appears to be off limits to parishioners.
- \* The big crucifix seems out of place and not in the style of our church. I wish it was made by a local artist. Could we have more banners? Could kids/families create the banners? Could our parish artists participate and not some unknown person from Italy? We have gifted artists among us!
- \* We need to be in the right relationship with God and our fellow man! Only this can bring us unity. If God is love then right relationship demands the same in our response to others.
- \* I agree with those who would like more statues and votive candles, especially statues. I am intrigued with the suggestion of placing the perpetual adoration chapel (maybe it would also be the day chapel) behind the current altar on the other side of a glass wall so that both the main church and the chapel could see the tabernacle.
- \* Perhaps a bit more oak trim along the back of the church. Our sacred worship space has evolved over time as money and ideas helped create what we have. The cross, stations, baptismal font, rails and oak trim in the front of the church. Our parish has done well and our space or church is beautiful and tasteful. Little additions like the Holy Water holders were well done. Replacing the metal chairs is a great idea. I would have liked the flags to stay in the church. I must agree they make a great addition to our foyer. We use all our areas well and often. I am proud of SEAS. Please no votive candles or statues. Come one and all to pray in our chapel or wonderful Catholic Church.
- \* I think that the decoration of our worship space needs a deliberate plan with working committees to develop some choices. We have unlimited gifted people in our parish that should be asked about this subject.
- \* I think the addition of a day chapel is a building project that is more long range and will require the discernment of the community.
- \* I think, before moving the tabernacle, a period of prayer and discernment is crucial along with appropriate catechesis.
- \* A few weeks ago it was sad to see group competition in our sanctuary. The choir was practicing for the funeral mass to follow. A group came to say the rosary for the deceased person, some place, sometime. The choir couldn't move the organ else where to practice. The rosary group could have said the rosary elsewhere, perhaps the chapel. Perhaps what we need to do is look at the spaces we have and

better utilize them instead of adding and adding. Other parishes seem to use space creatively. Perhaps we need to look at how we best utilize space more effectively.

\* My interest in attending the town hall meeting and completing this form reflects my concern that we do not spend an inordinate amount of money on structure when we are called to care for those in need. Secondly we do not retrofit our worship space to accommodate the Tridentine Mass. While I have no objection to a Latin Mass, I do object to the perspective of the Tridentine Mass, as described in the Catholic Anchor by Archbishop Schwietz.