

spirit of community is to build a new church. This will enable us to go back to reasonable and convenient Mass schedules and eliminate over-crowding and parking woes. We believe this is the only way we can prevent a slow erosion of our sense of community and the slow erosion of our strong financial base. We are urging you to vote YES on this proposal.

## Next Steps

You are receiving a ballot with this newsletter. We ask you to consider the proposal very carefully then record your family's vote. Return the ballot at Mass or to the rectory by **Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**. We will need a majority of YES votes in each parish for the PPC to move ahead with facility project planning and the capital campaign. If we do not have a majority voting YES in each parish, then we will continue life as it currently exists with two separate parishes and our current space, the use of video and/or auditorium Masses for high-attendance weekends, sharing one pastor, our current limited Mass schedule, limited religious education facilities, and parking limitations. *✍*

## Prayer Before Voting

Good and gracious God,  
we are your people embraced by your love.  
We thank you for your presence with us  
throughout all time.

Create us anew through Jesus Christ Your Son.  
Send us your Holy Spirit and show us Your ways.  
Guide our voting process as we determine our future.  
Grant us wisdom to know our gifts.  
Call us again to put these gifts at the service  
of each other.

Give us zeal and holy courage  
to discern the direction we should take.  
Fill us with joy to celebrate the fullness of life.  
Empower us to be a community of love  
growing in Your likeness by the grace of  
Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Amen

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# cross



# roads

## United or Divided

*Where do we go  
from here?*



**Ballot enclosed. Please complete  
and return by May 11, 2008**

Prepared by The St. Theresa and St. Francis Xavier  
Pastoral Planning Committee

# History of Pastoral Planning

We began the planning process back in the spring of 2006 to address how best to provide for the needs of the parishioners of St. Theresa in Harvard and St. Francis Xavier in Bolton with just one priest available to serve both parishes. The Pastoral Planning Committee's (PPC) mission over the past 2 years has been to provide proposals for both short-term and long-term solutions.

In January 2008, we published an extensive newsletter and provided you with the survey data regarding Mass attendance and projections regarding area population growth. Our conclusions were that we need 300 seats in our church now for high-attendance weekends. Using 20- and 30-year town growth projections, the data show a need for 350 and 400 seats, respectively. Saint Francis seats 200 people. Saint Theresa seats 180 people.

## Short-Term Solutions

Since our Mass schedule for the combined parishes was reduced in January 2008 from 7 Masses on a weekend to 4, our short-term solution has been to use video feed to Deacon Hall to accommodate overflow at St. Theresa's. Additionally we have used auditorium space for large gatherings such as Palm Sunday.

## Options

Since January, the PPC has spent much time looking at long-term solutions. This has included re-looking at possible expansion of either site and also reviewing the financial feasibility of building a new facility.

We have determined that expansion is not the optimal solution and is not financially responsible. Expansion at St. Theresa would be very costly (a minimum of \$2-3 million) and would result in even more limited parking. The PPC and various sub-committees agree that this is not a viable option.

The PPC believes the best option is to merge the parishes and build a new facility.

## PPC Recommendation

The PPC has a recommendation, which we will ask you to vote on. The specific recommendation is as fol-

lows: That the parishes vote to merge and form a new parish. The new parish would create a new vibrant Catholic community for Harvard and Bolton, where our ministries would be enhanced and where personal and community spiritual growth can be realized. The new parish would build a new facility to accommodate our current needs and will be expandable for future growth.

### BASIC CONCEPTS FOR NEW FACILITY

- A church that seats 300+ people with rectory, parish hall and classrooms
- Location would be accessible to both current parishes
- An ideal location would be at an equal distance from Harvard and Bolton centers

*Note: If you would like to see a nice country church and facility of this size take a ride to St. Mary of the Hills in Boylston. This is a church built in 1991 that seats 450. A facility like this could easily meet our needs and is consistent with our proposed budget.*

### BUDGET FOR NEW FACILITY: \$6 MILLION

The budget would be \$6 million. This is the budget amount that the PPC, our fund-raising consultants and the finance committees believe is feasible. Financing has been discussed with Bishop McManus, and he is in agreement with this approach. The project would be financed in several ways:

- Sale of the current properties (\$1 million)
- Capital campaign to raise \$4 million
- Loan from the diocese of \$1 million

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- The Campaign would start in the fall of 2008
- Campaign goal is \$4 million
- Five-year campaign (i.e., pledges would be spread out over 5 years)
- Our contributions to the campaign will be in addition to maintaining current support of our parish operations.
- \$4 million will require two times our annual revenue for five years for the campaign in addition to current annual revenue that supports parish operations.

### WHAT IT MEANS IN REAL DOLLARS

- Current operating expenses for our two parishes total \$400,000 per year.
- During the 5 years of the campaign, it will require that we raise an additional \$800,000 per year to support the facility project. Over the five years that will enable us to realize our \$4 million goal
- On the average, total revenue will need to be tripled for 5 years.
- Campaign will be dependent upon ALL parishioners contributing according to their means. We know some families may not be able to increase their current contributions. Therefore, the success of the campaign will be dependent upon our current key contributors from both parishes making major donations to the campaign.

## PPC Position

### WHY THIS IS THE OPTIMAL SOLUTION

The PPC believes we have only one option if we want to maintain a cohesive vibrant Catholic community for Bolton and Harvard. To do this we need to agree to merge and to join in contributing to building a new facility. We are alone in this corner of the diocese, and we have been assured by the Bishop that we will continue to have a dedicated pastor assigned to us for the foreseeable future.

We believe it is possible to raise this much money. We met with CCS, the fund-raising consultants who were used by the diocese in the very successful *Forward in Faith* campaign. Their advice is that we can raise \$4 million if the parishioners are strongly behind the proposal. \$4 million coupled with \$1 million from the sale of the two properties and \$1 million in a loan from the diocese would be enough to build a new facility. Yes, we know that \$6 million is a lot of money. That includes the cost of the land, a church that can seat 300+ people, 8-10 classrooms, a meeting hall, administrative space and a rectory.

Together we raised \$1.1 million for the *Forward in Faith* campaign, and that campaign was for the diocese. This campaign will be for us, for our future as a parish. The only way the PPC believes we can bring back the strong