

February 8, 2016
Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D.D.
1125 Madison Avenue
Covington, KY 41011

Dear Bishop Foys,

Shortly after my appointment as Pastor of St. Mary Parish several things seemed to be happening:

1. a revival in parish membership, partly due to a concerted effort of our “Rediscovering Our Parish” efforts;
2. a steady increase in enrollment in our parochial school and in our elementary religious education program
3. a long delayed 900-unit housing development was re-launched in our parish boundaries

These, as well as other “growth” issues, has given rise to some low-level discussions about our existing facilities, the best use of our facilities and whether or not we should be pro-active in planning for the (likely) increases in parish membership and the related activities that comes with it.

As you know, our Church and Office buildings are just about 30 years old. The school building has seen some renovations in the past 30 years. On the other hand, we have Schneider Hall, which is euphemistically called the barn indicating its age. It serves a gym for our youngest school age children and the lower level is storage. It has a questionable life span left. Also, after the Sisters of Notre Dame left our parish, we began using the old convent as much needed meeting space. The structural integrity of the building may be an issue. Its best use is also something to consider.

An ad hoc committee has been formed here in the parish to facilitate the discussions of these items. The committee is aware of all the diocesan guidelines for such undertakings.

We are just in the discussion phase of this endeavor. Nevertheless, I thought I would do you the courtesy of informing you of this very preliminary stage. Moreover, I want to give you my assurance that, should the discussions bear fruit in a direction that necessitates further action, you will be the first to know and all diocesan guidelines in this regard will be followed.

If you have any question about this, please do not hesitate to call. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joseph A. Gallenstein
Pastor

April 12, 2017

Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D.D.
Bishop of Covington
1125 Madison Avenue
Covington, KY 41011

Dear Bishop Foys,

I am writing to you as a follow up to my February 8, 2016 letter, in which I informed you that an ad hoc parish committee had been formed at St. Mary to evaluate our current facilities and future needs; especially future needs as it might entail a building project. Since that time, the committee studied growth trends, gathered parishioner feedback (via town hall style meetings and a parish-wide survey), made some preliminary needs assessments and started looking at some possible solutions.

The Committee found that the Alexandria community is growing; the parish and school are likewise growing. Our current facilities are being used at near capacity. Moreover, the committee found –with input from Mr. Don Knochelmann – that we have two buildings on our campus (the old convent and the old gym) whose current functions and future uses must to be seriously assessed. Finally, the Committee believes that, were there to be an expansion effort, St. Mary Parishioners are likely to support it.

I respectfully request your permission to meet with the Diocesan Building and Property Office to further discuss these findings.

As always, please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joseph A. Gallenstein