

South Campus Update from Fr. Scott



FURTHERING OUR MISSION

Pray. Serve. Spread the Gospel with Joy.

April 29, 2018

My Dear People,

I write to provide you with a formal update on our South Campus Project. In late January, we acquired the former Aldersgate Methodist Church, which is adjacent to our current main campus.

Our vision for this property is three fold:

- The St. John Fisher Chapel will serve as smaller worship space for us for daily Mass on most days of the week and for small weddings and funerals along with other liturgical events that would be appropriate for that space.
- The St. Thomas More Catholic Preschool will allow us to grow our preschool program over time and have up to five classrooms of three and four year old students.
- The Bishop F. Joseph Grossman Center will serve as a multiuse space including the new home for Chapel Hill-Carrboro Meals on Wheels.

Over the past several months, we have been working with Little Architects and Pennoni Engineers to design all of the necessary plans for the buildings and site work. In addition, we have been in conversation with the Town of Chapel Hill as to our plans. We have been meeting with the Diocese of Raleigh Building and Real Estate Commission in order to gain the necessary approvals for the project from Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama. We have held two meetings with residents of the Laurel Hill neighborhood in order to share with them our plans, answer questions, and address concerns that they have which mainly deal with the areas of increased traffic, parking and the connector path between the two campuses.

When the South Campus Project was originally presented to you through the ***Furthering Our Mission*** initiative, it was stated that we hoped to complete the entire project at once with the target completion date of August of this year. As we have proceeded with the project, it became clear that this would not be possible due to the necessary steps outlined above. However, we are making great progress now and I am happy to share with you that by the end of this week, we will be submitting an application to the Town of Chapel Hill so that we may soon begin work on the following:

- The renovations to the St. John Fisher Chapel including the construction of a new ADA entryway.
- Interior renovations to the Bishop Gossman Center.
- The construction of an outdoor ramp from the second floor of the St. Thomas More Preschool for an emergency exit and ADA accessibility.
- The construction of 16 additional parking spaces including disabled parking.

The Town of Chapel Hill will have one month from the day that we submit the application to respond and hopefully grant us the necessary permissions to acquire the building permits so that we may begin

renovations and site improvements by early June. Choate Construction estimates that it would take about four months to complete the work.

Given the timing of the renovations, the St. Thomas More Preschool will operate out of the Elementary School building for the coming year. Our plan is to move the whole of the Preschool operation to the South Campus for the 2019-2020 academic year. Once renovations are complete, we can foresee using the South Campus facilities for certain preschool activities such as chapel time.

We are also continuing to work on the connector path between the Main and South Campus. This work is tied to our existing Special Use Permit for the Main Campus and thus it must be treated as a separate issue.

As we continue to move through the South Campus Project, I will keep you updated on our progress and I ask for your continued prayers for this project. Until we begin renovations, we are using the facilities for some meetings and activities.

Thank you for the sacrificial gifts that you have made to support this important initiative. I have been very much overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity by our parishioners as we seek to **Further our Mission** to Pray, Serve and Spread the Gospel with Joy. If you have not had the chance to participate in this important effort, please visit www.stmchapelhill.org/furthering-our-mission to do so.

In His Love,



Very Rev. Scott E. McCue, V.F.
Administrator



Artist's rendering of the St. John Fisher Chapel entrance, which incorporates the doors and surrounding stonework from the original St. Thomas More Church