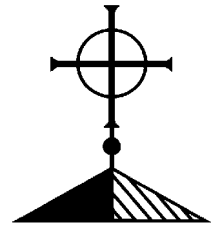


Please note: This document is the formal recommendation that the Phase III Inquiry Task Force made to parish leadership, per the Task Force's mission. At its November 18, 2008 meeting the SEAS Parish Council asked that the recommendation be published for parishioners.



November 18, 2008

Dear Members of the Finance and Parish Councils:

The Phase III Task Force was assembled in the spring of 2008 and charged with the mission of examining the issues surrounding the long-term parish goal of bringing our education center to the main SEAS campus. The announcement in the March 30, 2008 bulletin best summarized the purpose of the Task Force:

A campus that serves our entire community's needs all at one location, from our youth to our elderly, including our school children, has been the goal from the time SEAS was formed as a parish. It will be the purpose of this task force to discuss the issues related to this goal and make recommendations to parish and school leadership about the feasibility and next steps involved in Phase III.

The Task Force met five times from May to October of 2008 and achieved its goal of formulating a recommendation to our parish and school leadership.

Our Recommendation

We recommend that the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish community proceed with planning for a new SEAS Education Center (Phase III). We believe that building our SEAS Education Center on this campus and uniting our parish and education ministries into one location is a goal worthy of our best efforts. We believe that the Holy Spirit has called this parish to set this goal, and the same Holy Spirit will bless our efforts to accomplish it (cf. Phil 1:6). Therefore, we believe Phase III is feasible for our parish community.

For next steps, we recommend a Phase III Planning Committee be formed to plan Phase III. In our deliberations we identified many issues and tasks related to this project. We recommend that the Planning Committee consider these items in its work. These factors are:

- Many physical upgrades are needed now or very soon at our school building at 600 Tyler Street, the total cost of which could exceed \$500,000. The parish may not want to invest that heavily in a building with a limited remaining life.
- The fact that a Phase III building will be used by the entire parish: Faith Formation, parish groups, grades 1 – 8 of our school, and more (Pre-K & K are within Phase II).
- Enrollment projections and demographics should be studied.
- Learn from other parishes that have executed similar projects.
- Conduct site planning, including the building's size and its outdoor space needs.
- Determine realistic cost estimates.

- Assess parish support: feasibility study, survey, or focus groups.
- Develop SEAS School alumni interest and support in this project.
- Keep parishioners informed of the status of the project and the factors involved.
- Educate our community on the importance of Catholic schools as communicated by the U.S. Catholic Bishops.
- Consider sources of tuition aid as a means of keeping tuition affordable and enrollment sustainable.
- Establish and maintain a reputation for excellence at SEAS School.
- Create a realistic and achievable timeline for the planning and construction of Phase III, possibly 5-7 years.

We recognize that this sounds like an enormous amount of work. Frankly, it is. However, we believe that our parish community, led by a dedicated group of committed members, can achieve the goal of completing Phase III. God has called us to this task; God will bless our efforts.

We have been blessed to serve on this Task Force. *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us!*

Sincerely,

The Phase III Inquiry Task Force

Nick Conzemius
John Fasbender
Jim Foster
Dawn Jurgens
Debra Kelly
Ken LaCroix

Doug Laumeyer
Eileen Perra
Mark Dittman, Parish Administrator
Rita Humbert, SEAS School Principal
Fr. Jim Perkl, Pastor

Please note: At their November 18, 2008 meetings, both the Finance and Parish Councils accepted the recommendation of the Task Force and approved the creation of a Phase III Planning Committee, without a commitment of funds at this time.

