

## New Parish Center

Last fall, our parish conducted a Project Assessment and Capitalization Study to check the feasibility of building a new Parish Center. To conduct this study, we retained the services of Field Development Consultants, Inc., an independent professional consulting firm specializing in Catholic Parishes and Schools. This process included individual one-on-one interviews with 33 parish families and four focus groups in which 44 parish families participated. A good cross-section of the community was involved in the process. **The following areas were identified as priority by the participants:**

- 1.** The parish must be financially sound, so we need to **improve in our weekly contributions** to meet or exceed our operating expenses.
- 2.** Because of the growth of our parish, there is a consensus that it is appropriate to deviate from the master plan developed in 2005 and address the **need for a Parish Center** with seating for 600, a kitchen and increased parking.
- 3.** The parish should create a formal “Legacy” society to document the intentions of any parishioners planning to include gifts to the parish in their **estate plans**. Proceeds from these gifts can be earmarked for our building fund.
- 4.** The parish needs to improve its **Stewardship Program** to offers parishioners greater opportunity to donate their Time, Talent and Treasure.

**Thanks to everyone who participated in this study.** As we make progress on these priority items, we encourage everyone to give prayerful consideration as to your individual role in our faith community and how you can assist in the priority areas identified in this process. A summary of the study follows.

**FIELD DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS, INC.  
799 WESTON PARK DRIVE  
POWELL, OHIO 43065**

**Report for Our Lady of Sorrows Parish**

**Scope of Study:** 33 families participated in the interview process  
44 families participated in a Focus Group

**Examples of Questions:**

- How many years have you been a parishioner?
- Do you agree with altering the site plan sequence and building a Parish Center as the initial “next step” in the expansion of the Parish?
- Assuming a major gifts program or campaign needs to be conducted to fund this project, would you make a financial gift toward this project - pledged and fulfilled over a 3 - 5 year period - above and beyond your current offertory contributions?
- Would you be willing to serve as a host to gather other parishioners to learn more about the project?

**Breakdown of Responses:**

**How many years have you been a parishioner?**

<u># of years</u>	<u># of families</u>
1-3	21
4-10	22
11-20	15
20+	19

**Do you agree with altering the site plan sequence and building a Parish Center as the initial “next step” in the expansion of the Parish?**

	<u>Interviews</u>	<u>Focus Groups</u>	<u>Total %</u>
Yes:	30	41	<b>92%</b>
No:	1	2	4%
Unsure	2	1	4%

**Assuming a major gifts program or campaign needs to be conducted to fund this project, would you make a financial gift toward this project - pledged and fulfilled over a 3 - 5 year period - above and beyond your current offertory contribution?**

	<u>Interviews</u>	<u>Focus Groups</u>	<u>Total %</u>
Yes:	29	32	<b>79%</b>
No:	1	2	4%
Unsure	3	10	17%

**Would you be willing to serve as a host to gather other parishioners to learn more about the project?**

Yes	70
No	5
Unsure	2

### **Analysis of Study Results:**

- A good cross-section of the community was involved in the process.
- Clearly, a strong consensus was reached with regard to deviation from the original site plan sequence and focusing first on construction of a Parish Center. Typically, a 60% positive response is necessary. A 92% positive response is outstanding.
- With regard to the potential financial support from the parishioners, a 60% positive response is the norm. A 79% positive response is good.
- A significant number of parishioners are willing to serve as “Host Families” in order to cultivate other parishioners with the intent of informing them about the scope and details of the project.