

## **TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE**

For over a year now, your generous contributions have been coming in to our *To Teach Who Christ Is* capital projects account with the Archdiocese. Some of that money was used to repay the Church for the money spent a bit more than a year ago to repair the boilers in the school while another portion was spent on the new parking lot lighting and the widening of the sidewalk between the parking lot and the church. And more recently, the portion allocated for savings replenishment in our original case statement was used to help defray the deficit incurred from the school during the budget year that ended June 30<sup>th</sup>. But the bulk of those funds must be used for the other capital improvements we outlined when this fundraising campaign began in 2016, and we're now ready to move on with two of those projects.

One of the plans for the use of these capital funds was **handicapped access** to the Burke Center meeting rooms, with an outside ramp and an **accessible washroom**; the cost for this was budgeted at \$160,000. But with the closing of the school, it occurred to me that we already had a handicapped-accessible building through the so-called "milk doors" on the south side of the school. So we're now in the process of having architectural plans drawn to make the current first floor school washrooms accessible and to create a large meeting space in the two classrooms closest to those south side doors by tearing down a wall between the rooms. The larger space could accommodate a sizeable group while a folding or sliding door in the center could allow two smaller meetings to be held there – all completely accessible.

In addition to providing easily accessible meeting space and washrooms, transferring this project to the school should save over \$150,000 from what was originally budgeted for both the Burke Center accessibility and the accessible washroom project for the school, and the unused funds can then help to replenish our depleted savings or pay for other unexpected capital needs. And if the school building were ever to be re-opened as a school in the future, the rooms that will now be renovated for meeting space could easily be re-converted to classrooms – though that need would be unlikely since one room hadn't been used as a classroom in many years and the other room had served as the faculty room. Once the architectural drawings are complete, we'll seek the required three bids from Archdiocesan-certified contractors. When we choose a contractor and the Archdiocese signs off on the contracts, we'll begin this work as soon as possible, taking care to not interfere with the Religious Education schedule or the Winter Picnic.

Next week, I'll provide more information on our current financial situation along with a recommended initiative to help get us back on track with our regular Sunday income.

Fr. Bob