



BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

Questions and Answer Handout

The Need to Build

Do we really need a new church and why? Absolutely! We cannot continue to fulfill our commitment to our parish families or community without expanding our facilities. Blessed Sacrament is the only Catholic Church in Alamance and Caswell Counties covering more than 865 square miles. We also have many families from Orange and Guilford counties that call our parish home. Portable chairs and parishioners standing in the vestibule are commonplace. The new church will solve many challenges such as insufficient seating and parking. It will allow us to grow as a parish as new families join our parish and those who have left out of frustration will return because we will be able to accommodate them. The Church when built is designed to be a beautiful and visible sign of worship and the centerpiece of our new campus. We will be proud to call our new campus "home".

We stopped all of this last year because of the economy. Nothing has really changed, why the rush to build now and what has changed so that we can? Over the past ten years we have been building our infrastructure to get to the point where we can confidently proceed with a capital campaign that will enable us to move forward. We have a stable Pastoral team, strong finances; growing offertory, a \$1,000,000 match, a capital campaign, and construction costs will never be any lower.

Finances

I thought last year we did not have the funds to go forward. How can we now? Now is a perfect time to raise the additional funds needed since a very generous parishioner has offered to match the first \$1,000,000 we raise. This match will allow us to raise the \$2,000,000 necessary to break ground and construction costs will never be lower.

Can we afford to maintain the two locations? Your Pastoral team, Finance Council and parish staff have reviewed the financials thoroughly and have Diocesan approval to move forward because Blessed Sacrament has demonstrated that it can financially support both locations. We also believe that the new location will attract many new members to our

Church who have found other houses of worship because Blessed Sacrament was not able to accommodate them. Your past and future support has enabled Blessed Sacrament to be in this position. Blessed Sacrament has been a good steward of the funds you have entrusted to us. With a campus as large as Blessed Sacrament it is common to move one part of the campus at a time, as resources allow, until the entire campus has been relocated. At this time, the only building at the new location is going to be the church. We still need to have faith formation for our members and their families. We also need space for the school children to have sports activities. It is much less expensive to keep our downtown location then to rent space over the next several years until we are in a position to build the next buildings at the new location.

What is the cost of the new church and how will it be financed?

Cost of the Church is:	\$5,600,000
Savings:	\$2,517,000
Matching Gift:	\$1,000,000
Capital Campaign:	\$1,000,000
Diocesan Loan:	\$1,500,000 (up to \$1,500,000, if needed)

Will the cost of the church include furnishings? The new church budget has basic furnishings included which would mainly be for pews and an altar and some other small items.

How can we afford a new church if our offertory is down? Our offertory contributions have increased each fiscal year since 2004, ranging from 2 to 11% increases each year. We are confident that our family members will continue their generosity in the future. This is the best time to build our new church because of reduced construction costs.

Are we still expected to increase our offertory each year? Each year we ask all our families to pray and evaluate their personal circumstances, and the blessings that they have received, before planning their offertory commitment to Blessed Sacrament. Our parishioners recognize that our ministries, services, and programs offered are a direct result of their time, talent, and treasure committed to the parish. Our parish grows when our parishioners recognize the blessings that they have received and express their appreciation through an increased sharing of their resources.

The “Make All Things New” Capital Campaign

I like the current church and don’t want to build another church. Why should I contribute? Someone built this church building for us. When Blessed Sacrament parish had a 100 seat church in the old brown building there were some people who liked that old church but saw the need for a bigger church because they knew the “Church” was bigger than just themselves or their own particular needs. They contributed to build the church we now enjoy. It is our time now to build for ourselves and for future generations.

I contributed to the God's Work~Our Challenge (GWOC) campaign in 2002 so am I still expected to make an additional pledge? Funds collected from the GWOC campaign have enabled Blessed Sacrament to start saving for our new church project. Through your generosity we have saved substantial funds through the God's Work~Our Challenge campaign and other special collections toward the building of our new church. We still need to raise an additional \$1,000,000 to begin the construction so every family will be invited to participate by making a pledge to be paid out over three years.

Many parishes have to conduct two or three capital campaigns to raise the funds necessary to start building. The "I Make All Things New" campaign is only our second campaign to raise funds to build our new church and will enable us to move forward when we reach our goal of \$1,000,000.

Will the Hispanic community be making a financial commitment to this campaign? Absolutely! All who call Blessed Sacrament their home will be invited to participate in this historic event.

Is any money going to the Diocese for this campaign? No. All contributions and pledges to the "I Make All Things New" capital campaign are legally restricted for Blessed Sacrament's new church building.

What happens if we do not raise the campaign goal? We are confident that the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament will support this effort by pledging a minimum of \$1,000,000 because it will be matched by generous benefactors and will become \$2,000,000! This is a time when parishioners can essentially "double" their pledge to Blessed Sacrament as a result of the match. In the event we are unable to raise the goal, our plans will be re-evaluated and revised because the people of Blessed Sacrament need and deserve an adequate worship space. All funds contributed to this campaign are restricted and can only be used to build a church.

What are we asking families to contribute? All families will be invited to make a sacrificial pledge to the "I Make All Things New" campaign. Each family will be asked to pray about their decision and to evaluate their personal circumstances to determine their personal commitment. We want all families to be able to participate in this historic undertaking.

Is my gift tax deductible? Gifts to the "I Make All Things New" campaign are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

What happens if a donor is unable to fulfill a commitment made to the "I Make All Things New" campaign? While we hope that all commitments are made with the intention of being fulfilled, a donor who becomes unable to fulfill their pledge is encouraged to contact the parish office to explore viable options. Pledges are not legally binding. In some cases the pledge payments will be deferred until the situation improves, in other cases the pledge may be forgiven.

Will there be any memorials offered? At this point we are focused on raising major capital funds to break ground on our new church building. Memorials are not being sought after at this time because we are focusing on three year pledges.

How many years is the pledge period? All families will be invited to make a pledge over a three year period. Stretching the commitment over 36 months will allow parishioners to be more generous. We also recognize that as people's circumstances change they may not be able to fulfill their pledge so they will be encouraged to contact the parish office to restructure their commitment.

When is the first payment due? We are asking people to put a 20% down payment on their pledge amount. Your first pledge payment that is due is dependent upon how frequently you request statements. You may receive statements monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.

Current Facilities

Are we going to sell our present location? If not, how long will we be here? At this time we are not prepared to move our entire campus to the Hanford Road location. It has taken us many years to get to the point where we can finally begin the building of a new church building. It will take many more years and an additional effort to raise capital before the entire campus is able to be moved. The sale of the current campus will be the final step to making a complete move to Hanford Road.

The New Church

If we are going to have two sites, how will everything be coordinated? How/where will we have Masses and gatherings? Weekend Masses will take place at the new church located on Hanford Road. Daily Mass, weddings, baptisms and funerals will take place at our current church.

Won't it be confusing to parishioners and visitors to know where to go for Mass if we are split between 2 campuses? We will develop a communication plan so our parishioners and the community are well aware of what church to go to for Masses and events. Change is always hard and we embrace the challenge of communicating to our parish family and the community.

What is the timeframe to be in the new Church? If we raise our goal with the "I Make All Things New" campaign we plan on moving into the new church Easter 2011.

Right now it is convenient to drop off my child for faith development classes and go to Church. The building of a new church that is 3 miles away will make it impossible for me to continue doing this. Our Mass schedule at the new church will be adjusted so families can continue to drop their children off for our FDD classes and go to Mass.

Do we need to hire more staff members? No additional staff members are planned for at this time.

Other

I'm confused about the number of efforts Blessed Sacrament has undertaken to raise funds for a new church. The efforts that the parish has undertaken to raise funds for our new campus have been very focused on accomplishing that goal. We have offered our parishioners opportunities throughout the years to contribute to this goal.

Why have there been so many "stops and starts" to this project? Our parish first started to talk about building a new church about 10 years ago. Throughout the years we have explored numerous options to best provide for the parishioners and ministries of Blessed Sacrament. During that time we have experienced turnover of Pastors, we participated in a Diocesan wide capital campaign and a downturn in the economy. Since that time our Pastor, Fr. Bob Benko has strengthened our financial outlook to put us in a position to move forward.

Do we still need to support the BAA? Yes, our capital campaign seeks to answer long term and extraordinary needs of our parish while the BAA funds the charitable work of the Diocese, which we are a part of. The BAA helps us to fulfill our Gospel mandate to take care of God's poor throughout eastern North Carolina. This year and next year our BAA goal is guaranteed by the parish because of our capital campaign. If we don't raise our BAA goal the parish will need to make up the difference.

We are building a new church because in the future Blessed Sacrament might only have one priest? Why are we spending all this money on something that might happen? The reality of the shortage of priests is not something that may happen but is actually happening all over the Diocese and the country. There are many parishes that have pastoral administrators and only "weekend" priests. Here at Blessed Sacrament we have been blest to have the Franciscan Friars to administer our parish. Currently there are 3 priests assigned to Blessed Sacrament. This year the Franciscans had 6 priests go home to heaven and NO ordinations to the priesthood. The priest shortage is a reality and we need to plan for it now.